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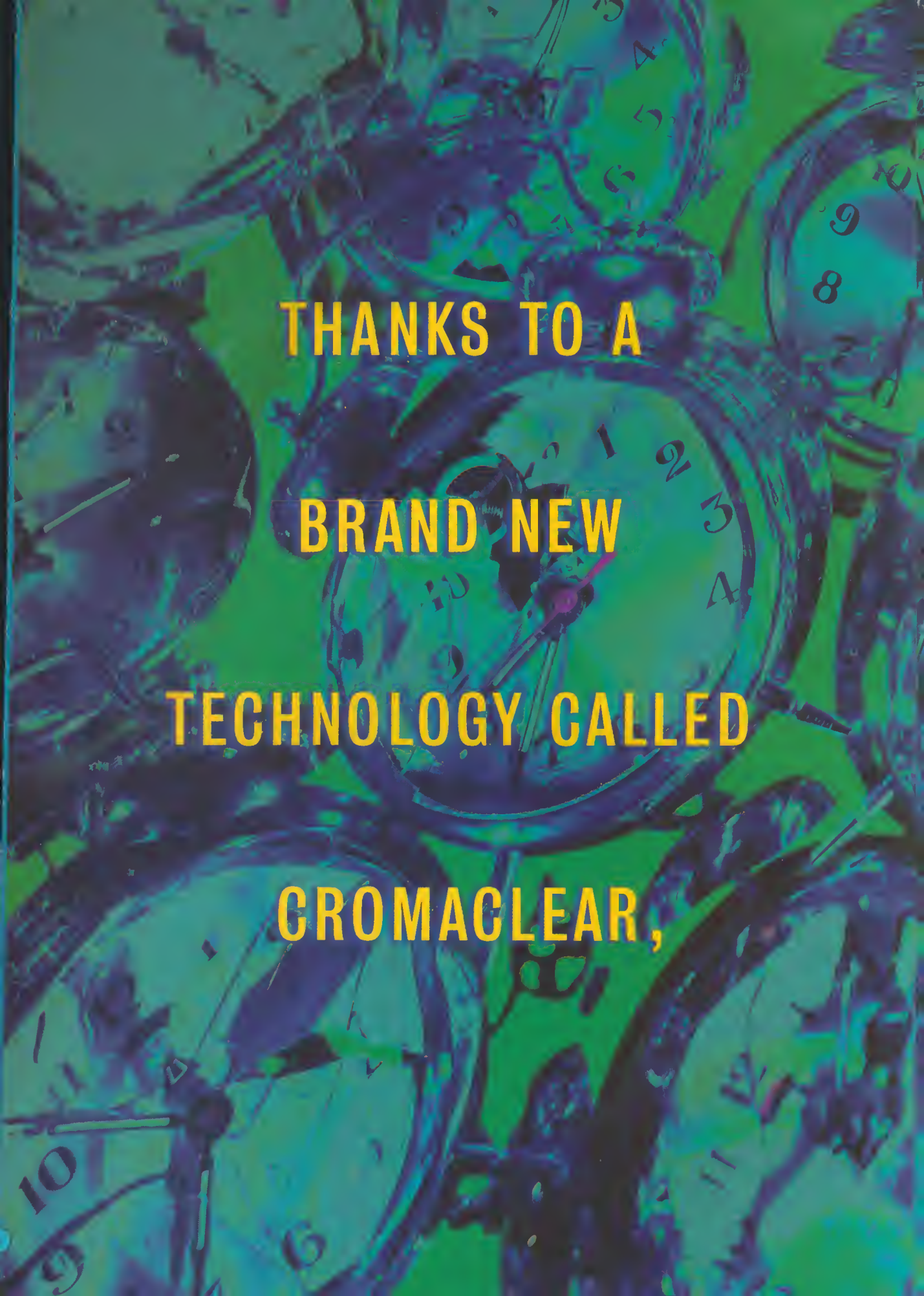
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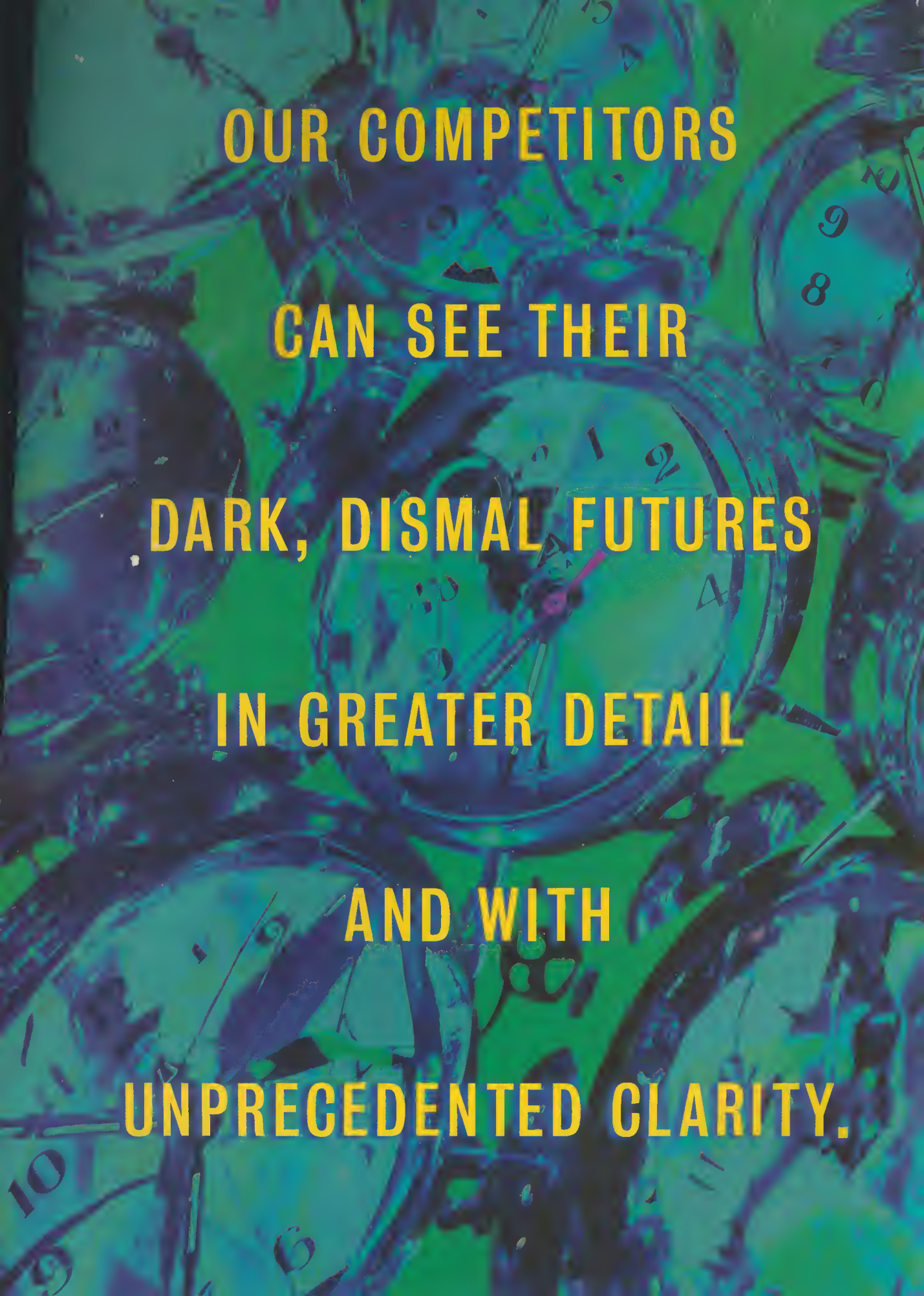
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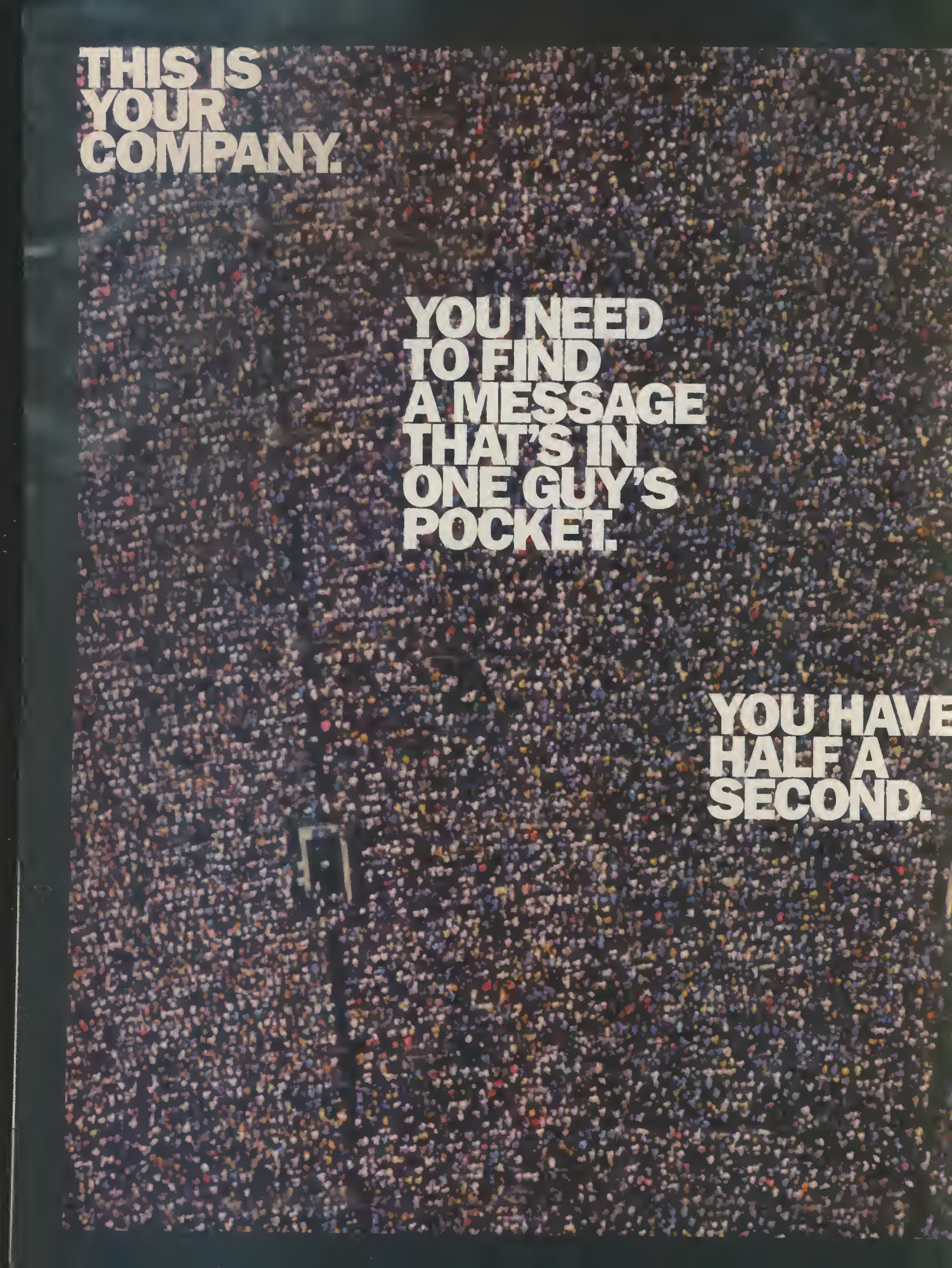
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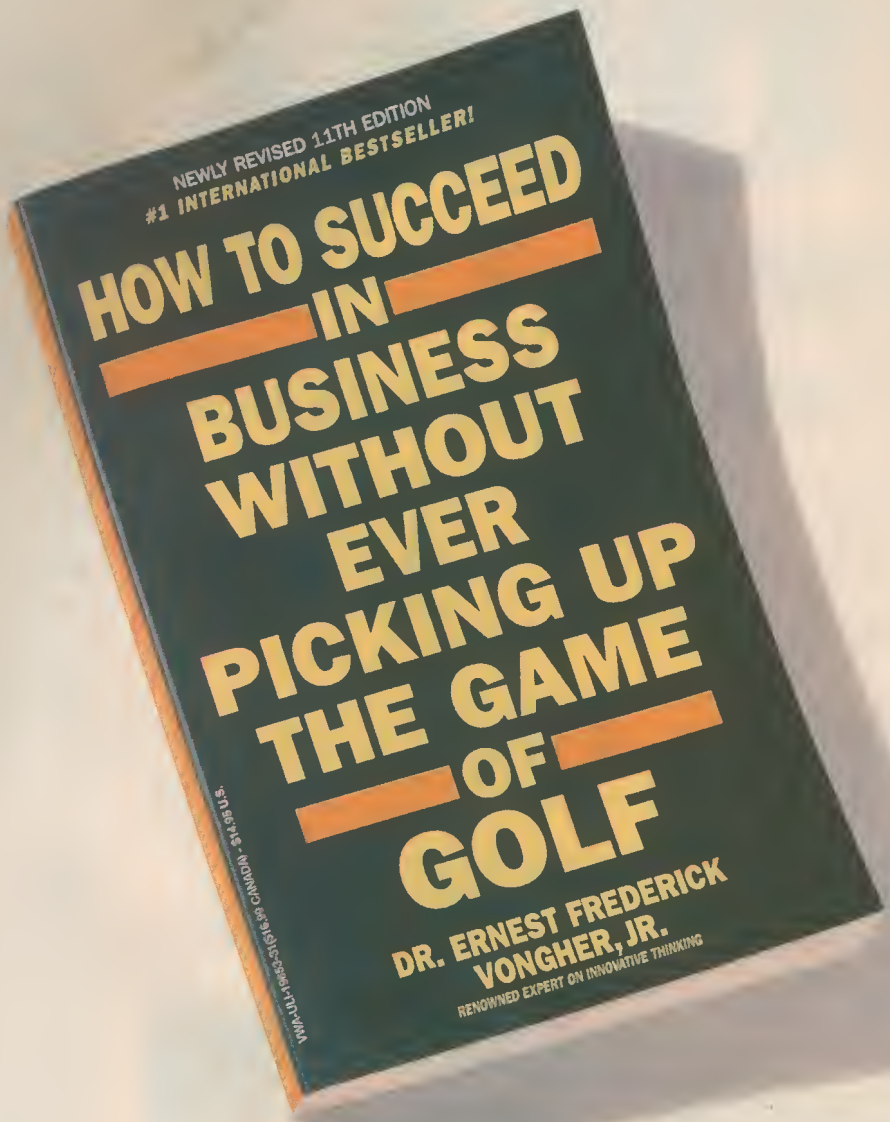

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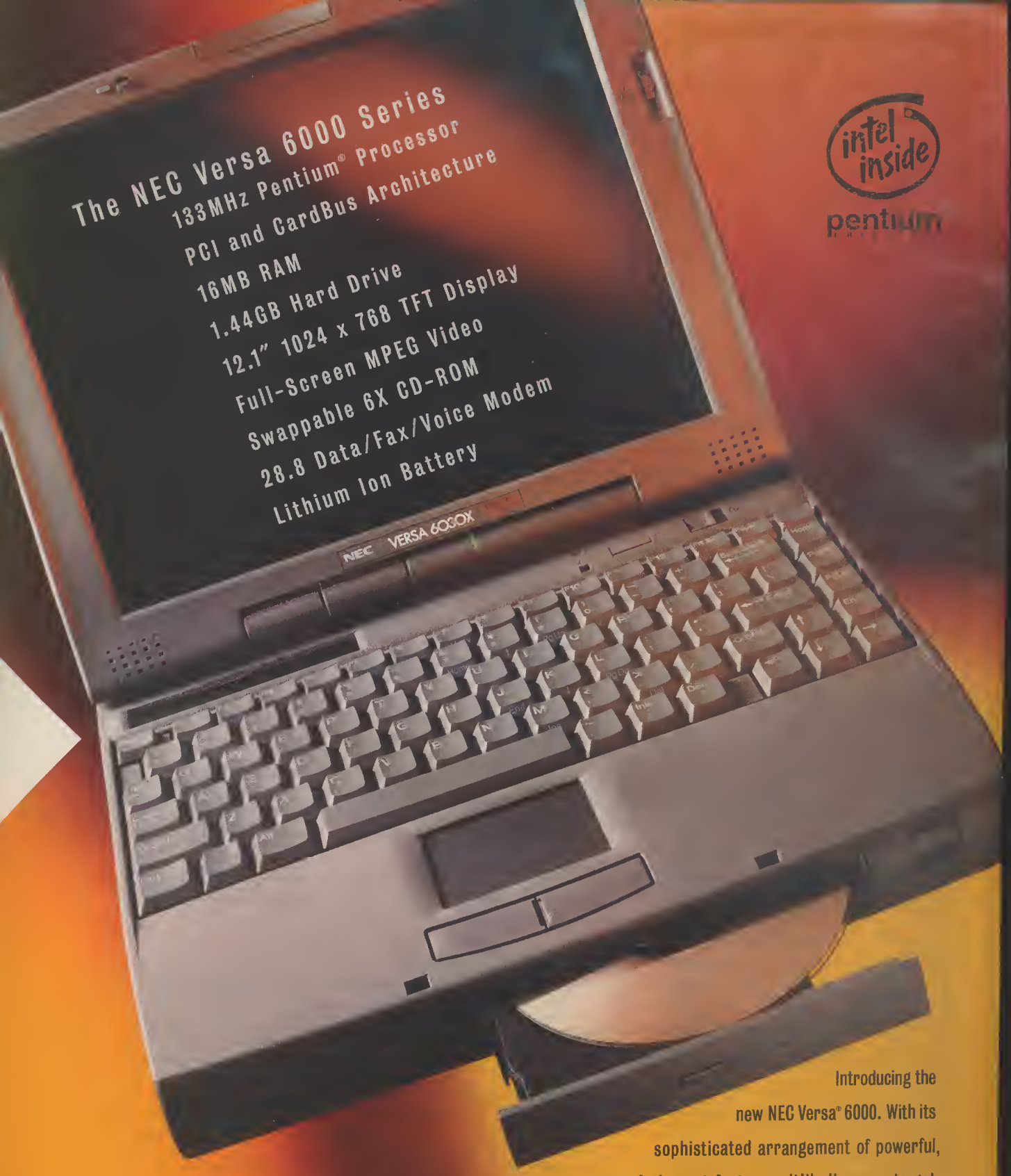

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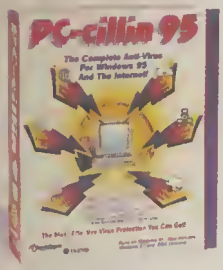

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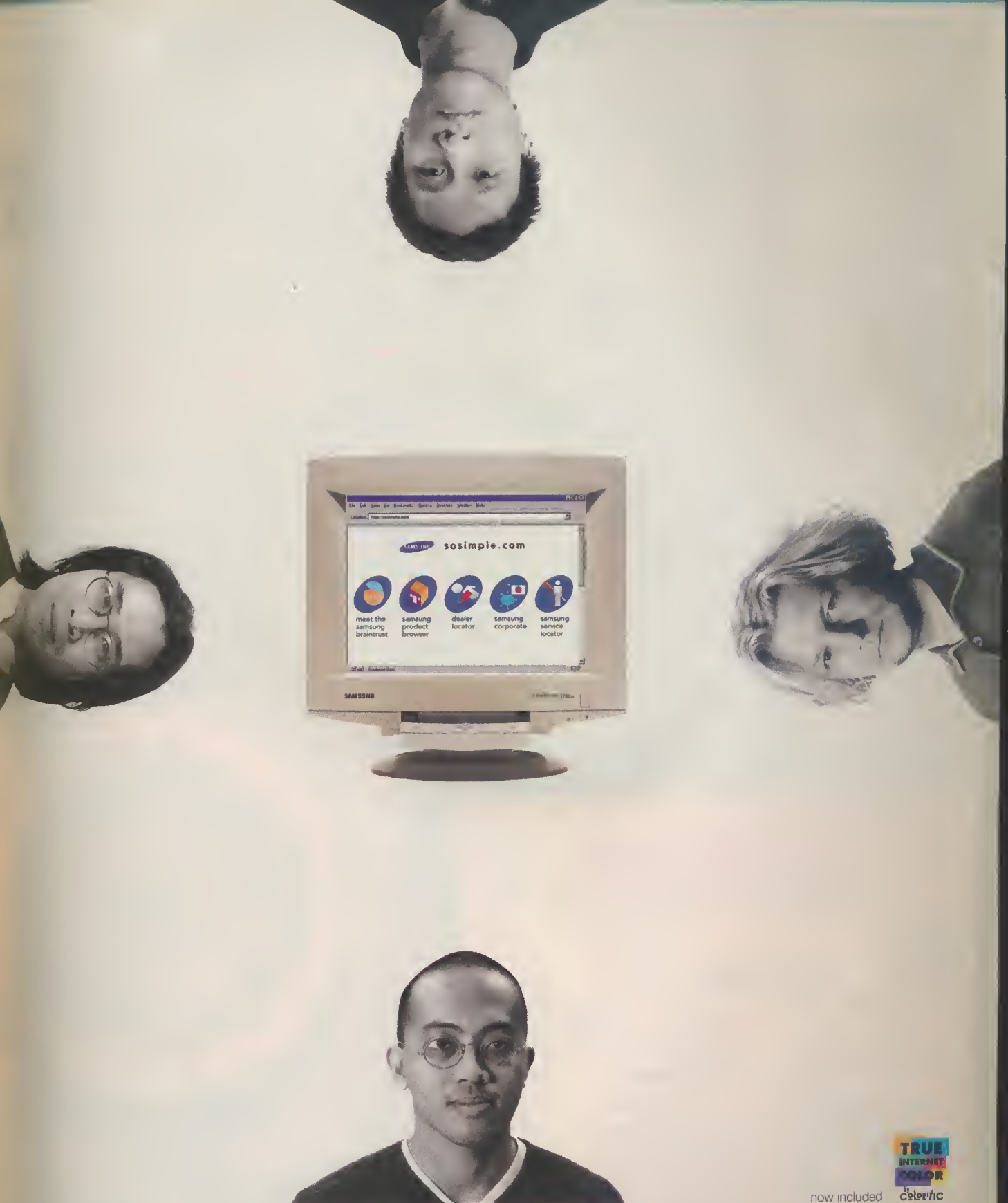

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It's summertime, so plan a vacation to the great outdoors. Surf to our Web Map for a comprehensive guide to North American camping, hiking, backpacking, and more.

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If you work out of a small office/home office, we have some important technology tips and products to recommend. Join editors Jack Lyon and Rich Schwerin for an online discussion on our America Online forum (Tuesday, June 25, 8 p.m. EST).

1,001 Best Free Web Downloads

PC Computing

In this month's feature, "Amazing Free Stuff" (page 104), our editors bring you the best free business tools, programs, games, and other freebies on the Net. Download them all from www.pccomputing.com.

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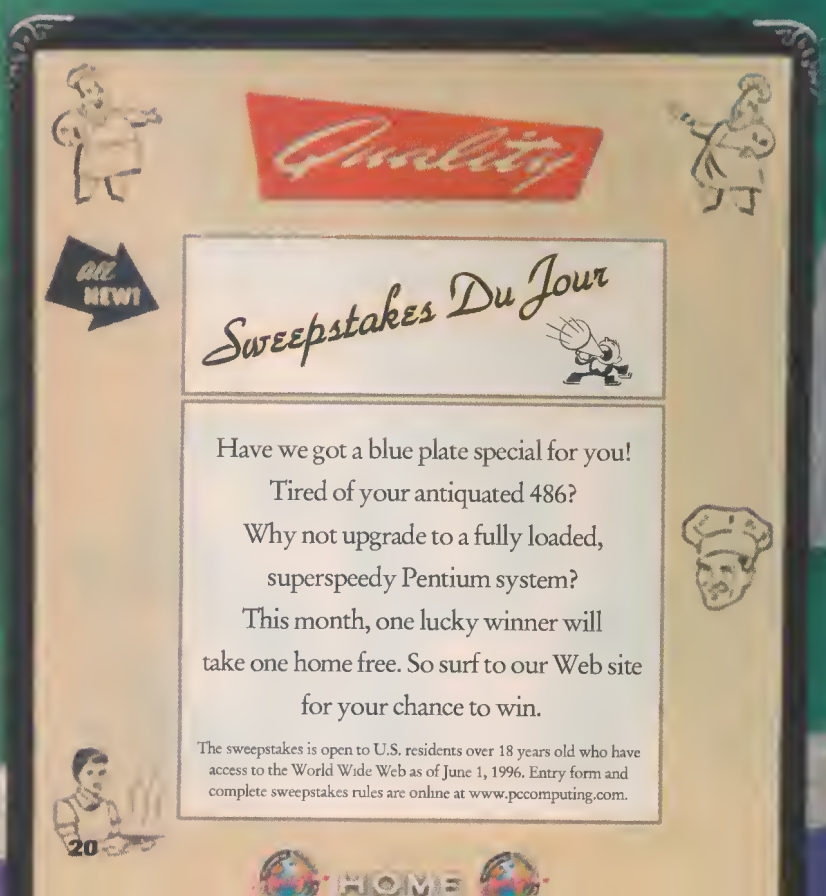

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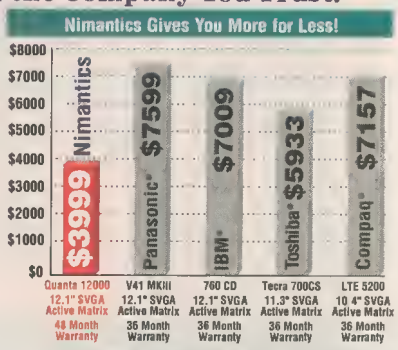

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ONLINE ANTICS

Net Watch

Paul Somerson's columns are not only informative, but also outrageously funny. His May column ("Fire Sale," page 51) was classic. I've been a programmer for years. As I watch the battle for control of the Net with semidetached awareness, I see that everything's coming up Microsoft, in spite of its shortcomings. America Online, CompuServe, and other online services are just tails trying to wag the Internet dog.

Earl Kenvin
via CompuServe

Prodigy the Pioneer

In his May column ("Fire Sale," page 51) Paul Somerson gave some useful advice for current and prospective Internet service providers, but his cheap trashing of some of the pioneers of the industry is offensive. Today it's easy to scoff at Sears's union with IBM to form Prodigy. But in 1984 most people had little knowledge of personal computers, let alone online services. Sears and IBM deserve some criticism for missed opportunities and a lack of vision, but they don't deserve Somerson's sniping. Instead we should all thank the pioneers who helped make this industry happen.

Pete Lips
via Prodigy

PRODIGY WAS INDEED a pioneer in getting people on the Web, but they choked—big time. Joint ventures rarely work, and this one was a doozy. Even when IBM has great software like OS/2, it can't sell it. And no offense, but what do you expect from the software side of Sears?

Free Lunch

I've followed the debate on Internet costs with great interest. In my opinion, the "No Free Lunch" crowd missed the point (Mail, May, page 23). One of the Internet's biggest attractions is that once you gain access, its content is essentially free. Perhaps it's philosophically disturbing to some that a good experience doesn't cost anything. If you see the need to pay, then join an online service. The Internet doesn't owe anyone a profit.

Will Madden
via the Internet

A Plug for Netscape

At the end of your Mail section in the May issue (page 28) you asked, "Can Microsoft conquer the Internet?" What were you thinking? My answer is simple: Netscape has proven time and time again that it can provide killer plug-ins for its programs. Where are the plug-ins for Microsoft's Internet Explorer? I thought so.

Robin Persaud
via the Internet

PLUG-IN SUPPORT is a plus, and Microsoft knows it. That's why Internet Explorer 3.0 will support Netscape plug-ins and Microsoft's Active X technology. Stay tuned for reviews of the latest versions of each product.

Microsoft Network—a Miss

Can Microsoft conquer the Internet? When I got on Microsoft Network five months ago, I was told that local Internet access would be provided in the near future. As of now, there is no immediate possibility of local access to the Net in my state, South Carolina. Also, Microsoft Network doesn't provide local access to vast areas of the United States, and its coverage area is increasing very slowly. I don't see how Microsoft can conquer the Internet until it can provide access to all areas.

Les Lewis
via Microsoft Network

16-Bit Navigators

I agree with Paul Somerson's April column ("Bye, Netscape," page 45). If Microsoft is making its next version of Windows look like an Internet browser, and if it's putting in Internet Explorer for free, it could mean big trouble for Netscape Communications. That is, if everyone moves toward the new Windows. It seems that Netscape will still have a big market with 16-bit Windows users. Of course the 16-bit Windows version of Netscape's Navigator doesn't support things like Java. Microsoft will soon have a 3.*x* version of Internet Explorer, but it will require the Windows 32 library to run.

Norman King
via the Internet

THE FUTURE IS 32-BIT. Netscape continues to support Windows 3.1 because people still use it, but no technology company would craft its future strategy around a 16-bit operating system. On top of that, Microsoft plans to embed Java and a few other cool things into its future Windows operating systems.

NT in 97?

Thanks for your articles directed toward business buyers. Should business readers go to Windows 95, Windows NT, or wait it out? I just invested in a 155MHz Pentium computer with 32MB of RAM, and from this system I see benefit. Will I get this type of advantage if I move to the 32-bit world? I know Windows NT takes up more system resources than Windows 95, but apparently it's more stable. I look forward to seeing you more thoroughly compare the two systems.

Richard Orr
via CompuServe

MOBILE USERS will prefer Windows 95 for its Plug and Play and power management support, while those who need high-grade security should opt for Windows NT. As for other business users, there are significant trade-offs—the greater resource requirements of NT, along with its unavoidable administrative hassles. Look for a full comparison of both operating systems after Windows NT 4.0 ships this fall.

Cable Confusion

Each month I read your magazine from cover to cover, and I really enjoy it. I have a question about your May cable-modem references, though. In your "Bandwidth Busters" story (Pulse, page 32), you say that cable modems have a throughput of 27Mbps and are capable of real-time video and sound. But in "I Want My Web TV!" (I-Way Patrol, page 297) you say that cable modems are capable of delivering 3,000Mbps. Which figure is correct?

LEE A. WILLIAMS II
VIA THE INTERNET

BOTH FIGURES ARE CORRECT. In the first round of cable-modem trials around the country, speeds ranged from 500Kbps to 27Mbps—breakneck speeds compared with traditional modem performance. We aren't seeing supersonic throughput in the 3,000Mbps range yet, but we should see speeds this high as the technology matures.

Oprah Update

I was trying to get to the Oprah online site that you indicated in the May HotList section of your magazine ("David Letterman," page 300), but I couldn't. I realize that links change or disappear quickly, so I would appreciate it if you could give me an updated URL for the link. Thanks for any help you can provide.

CHRIS WILSON
VIA THE INTERNET

THE SITE'S STILL THERE—we missed part of the address. The full URL is http://netday.iworld.com/simba/9509/95092808.shtml.

Right to the Source

I've been sending away for trial issues of nearly every magazine on the market with information on PC products. I spent months reading them from cover to cover and finally found one worthy of a subscription: yours. *PC Computing* is by far the most up-to-date, concise, and informative magazine available. I vow not to purchase any wares, soft or hard, until I see your ratings. Also, thank you for your Web site. I plan to visit it often.

RON CAMPBELL
VIA THE INTERNET

No Free Netscape

As an employee of a large Internet service provider (ISP) and a legal provider of Netscape Navigator 2.0, I must protest the blip in your May issue that says, "Why wear out your credit card . . . when you can download software for free?" (Radar, Pulse, page 33). There is a common and incorrect belief that Netscape's browser is free. That thinking causes serious problems for ISPs that try to remain legal by selling legitimate copies of Navigator with their services, while the competition promotes lower costs with "light" unregistered versions.

MIKE KOVACS
VIA THE INTERNET

NETSCAPE'S NAVIGATOR IS FREE to download. But you're right—you are also expected to register your copy and pay $49 should you decide to use Navigator regularly. Nevertheless, hundreds of free programs on the Web are completely free to download and use, including Microsoft's Internet Information Server. Check out the 1,001 best free Web downloads in our "Amazing Free Stuff" feature in this issue (page 100).

Welcome to the Next Level

I just received your May issue and have a clarification for your Free Stuff section (I-Way Patrol, page 298). In this part you reported that Duke Nukem 3-D shareware has five levels, but this game really has six levels. There is a hidden self-destruct button near the end of the fourth level. It's not too hard to find, so I'll leave that to you. And I would just like to add that I think you're all doing a great job with the magazine. Please keep up the good work!

MATT HAMMOND
VIA THE INTERNET

GREAT CATCH! We always knew *PC Computing* readers could take things a level further. Thanks for the tip!

Junk Faxes

John C. Dvorak's comments in his May column ("Paper Chase," page 53) about how advertisers who fax ads shift costs to the target customers are right on, so much so that a federal appellate court in California took this stance two years ago. The court ruled that a $500 fine can be levied if the sender of unsolicited fax ads doesn't comply with a customer's request to stop sending them.

RALPH KATZ
VIA COMPUSERVE

About-face on the Web?

In John C. Dvorak's May column ("Paper Chase") I noticed what seems to be a complete turnaround from his March column ("Web, Schmeb," page 61). Statements like "The Web's convenience and timeliness is rivaled only by broadcasting" in his May column reflect a kinder and more agreeable opinion of the Web. I'm glad to see the change of heart. Also (in reference to his May column), if this letter is printed I hope he doesn't get steamed about the waste of paper and ink.

NATHAN BAILEY
VIA THE INTERNET

For the Record

In the "Word Processor Superguide" (May, page 166) Streetwise Software's Design Portfolio and Lifetime Encyclopedia of Letters work with not only Corel's WordPerfect but also Microsoft's Word (Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 versions) and Lotus's Word Pro.

SHOULD COMPANIES BE ALLOWED TO READ EMPLOYEES' E-MAIL? Send your thoughts about this and other subjects to Mail, *PC Computing*, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404; fax, (415) 578-7059; Internet, 72241.1724@compuserve.com; or CompuServe, 72241,1724. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

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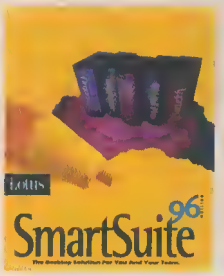
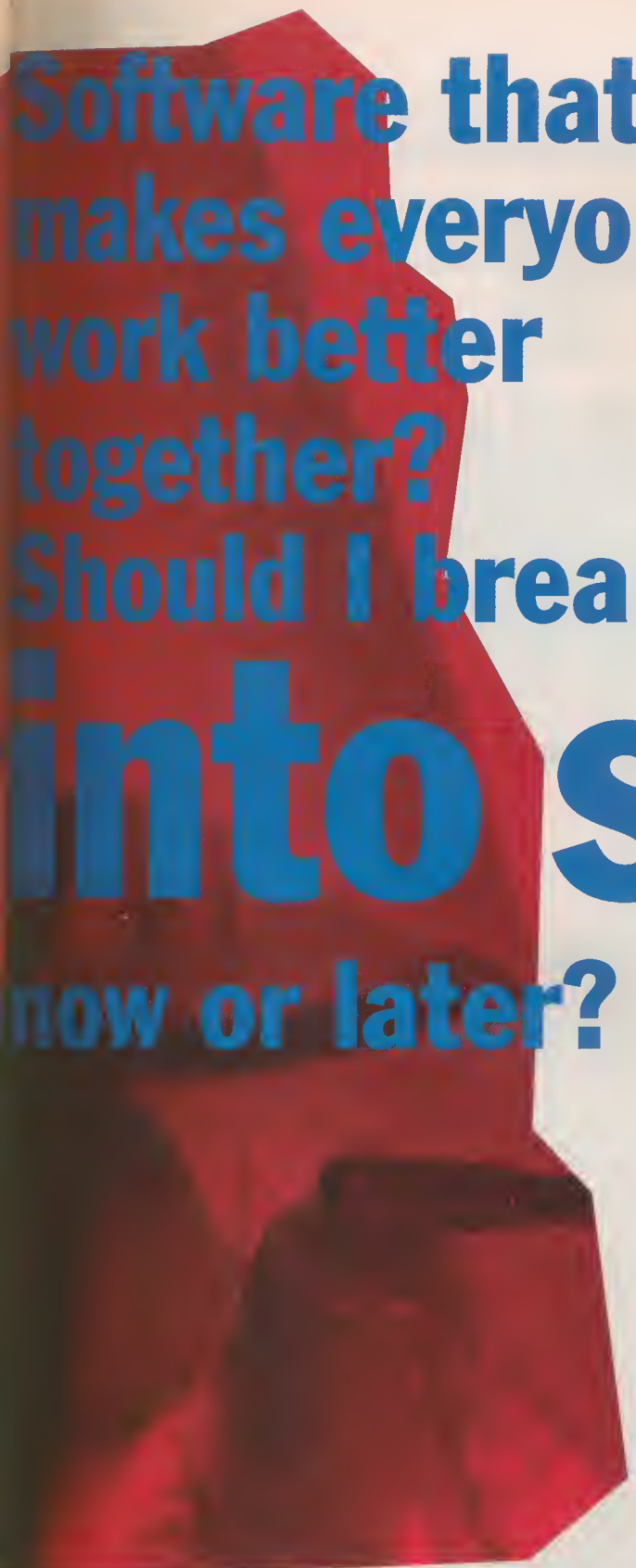
Exhibit A: TeamReview.™ This powerful feature lets you easily solicit feedback by establishing "who" receives a document for review, "what" level of editing rights they'll receive (comment only, read only or edit only) and "how" the document will be distributed (via floppy disk, e-mail or Lotus Notes®).



Co-workers can then edit using review and comment tools like a highlighter pen, revision marking or electronic comment notes.

Exhibit B: TeamConsolidate.™ Here the author can review everyone's edits and decide which comments to incorporate. And then, with a click of a button, collapse accepted comments into one revised document. (This might be a good time to start warming up those pipes of yours, because you'll be singing the praises of SmartSuite just a few paragraphs from now.)

With SmartSuite's electronic team features,



Software that makes everyone work better together? Should I break into song now or later?

everyday mundane tasks disappear, leaving more time for you to do what you do best. It's also been optimized for Windows® 95 to deliver greater functionality and productivity.

And now with LotusScript,™ the BASIC-compatible scripting language in SmartSuite, you can easily create customized applications that the whole team can work with. Clearly, this is not ordinary office suite software. Ask the folks at PC Week. They gave it the "Analyst's Choice Award" for best Windows® 95 suite over Microsoft Office.®

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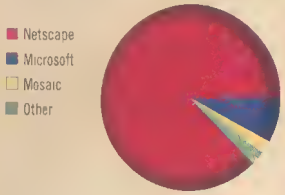
Circle 335 on reader service card.

Pulse

Bandwidth Busters,

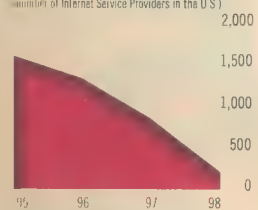
Netscape Dominates
(percent of global market share)



SOURCE DATAQUEST

Browser Beating: Netscape continues to dominate, claiming 85 percent of all Web surfers. But Microsoft's upcoming Internet Explorer 3.0 could narrow Netscape's lead.

ISPs Plummet
(number of Internet Service Providers in the U.S.)



SOURCE THE YANKEE GROUP

Limited Access: With big guns like AT&T and MCI offering low-cost, high-speed Internet access nationwide, small ISPs are expected to take a nose dive.

Shopping Online
(percent of Internet users)

SOURCE FIND/SVP

Charge It: Despite security leaks, 80 percent of all Internet users said they either buy things online with their credit cards, or plan to soon.

USB AND FIREWIRE

All Aboard The Bus

Express Line: The new Universal Serial Bus can handle 100 times the information of a standard serial bus.

It's time to get on a bigger and better bus. Data-throughput points like serial buses and IDE have nearly reached their performance limits. The latest answer to opening up bandwidth is called the Universal Serial Bus (USB) and it's already shipping on many new motherboards. The unassuming USB accommodates any number of peripherals on a single connection as long as their cumulative bandwidth demands don't exceed 12Mbps. That's about 100 times the limit of current serial buses.

The USB is wide enough to daisy-chain a printer, scanner, still camera, and removable hard drive from one port. Imagine a single box on your desk that is your phone, fax machine, VCR, and videoconferencing station—all hooked up through one cable. You can even install cantankerous peripherals like an ISDN modem or a CD-ROM drive without popping your PC's top and fiddling with the motherboard.

The USB also signals the beginning of the end for that jumble of wires and AC adapters behind your desk. The four-wire USB cable resembles a thick mouse cable and has a unique topology that lets vendors put connectors for mice, joysticks, stereo speakers, and lots more, in monitors and keyboards. Philips and Nokia are among several companies developing USB monitors. Meanwhile, KeyTronic and Cherry have shown prototype keyboards, although they probably won't be available for a few months.

Continuing the quest to improve usability and performance in PCs and peripherals, several companies, including Microsoft and Intel, have agreed on a new standard called

UPDATES Best Bets and Bargains

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For under $249, Teac's new eight-speed CD-ROM drive, the CD-58E, speeds along with a 1,200KBps data-transfer rate. Contact Teac at (213) 726-0303.
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Reader Service No. 603

TAPELESS BACKUP
With a modem and $15 a month, you can have your data backed up daily and stored off-site using Connected's DataSafe service. Contact Connected at (888) 922-2587.
Reader Service No. 604

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER ALAN GOULO © CORBIS-BETTMANN

Instant Intranets

Simply Interactive PC (SIPC). The companies adopted the USB as the first component of SIPC. A system that meets the requirements of SIPC will be as responsive and visually appealing as your TV, and as intuitive and interactive as your telephone. It will have the fidelity of your stereo and be as entertaining as Sony's Playstation.

Ironically, the USB is referred to as the SIPC's low-speed bus because it will be followed by a superfast 200Mbps-to-400Mbps IEEE 1394 bus—also known as the Firewire bus. It will connect things like a stereo, a VCR, a camcorder, a satellite dish, or a cable TV box to any device that mixes high-bandwidth audio and video streams. The Firewire bus will also handle high-resolution videoconferencing, standard and interactive movies, and digital video data (DVD)–quality 3-D images and stereo sound.

Another component of SIPC is OnNow, a software initiative that will bring your computer to life in 3 to 5 seconds—just like your TV and stereo. Actually, your PC will likely never shut down. Instead, your hard drive will spin down. That way, it could automatically wake up to send and receive faxes or back up a hard drive. Microsoft, Intel, and other companies have teamed up to make sure that the implementation code for OnNow is consistent throughout hardware drivers, operating systems, and applications.

These technologies probably won't be available for a year or more. But the USB, the Firewire, and OnNow will eventually put PCs at the center of the galaxy of consumer electronics—right where they belong. **MH**

One-Stop Intranet Shop

Microsoft's **Windows NT Server** and **Exchange Server,** and Digital's **Alpha** servers: Could this be your one-stop recipe for **intranet success?** Later this summer, MCI will bundle and service all these products in its all-in-one **Enterprise Network Solutions.** Watch for competing offers from AT&T, Netscape, IBM, and IBM's Lotus Development division soon. **RS**

Enterprise Network Solutions / MCI / (800) 999-2096 / price not available / *Reader Service No. 605*

ISDN Modems

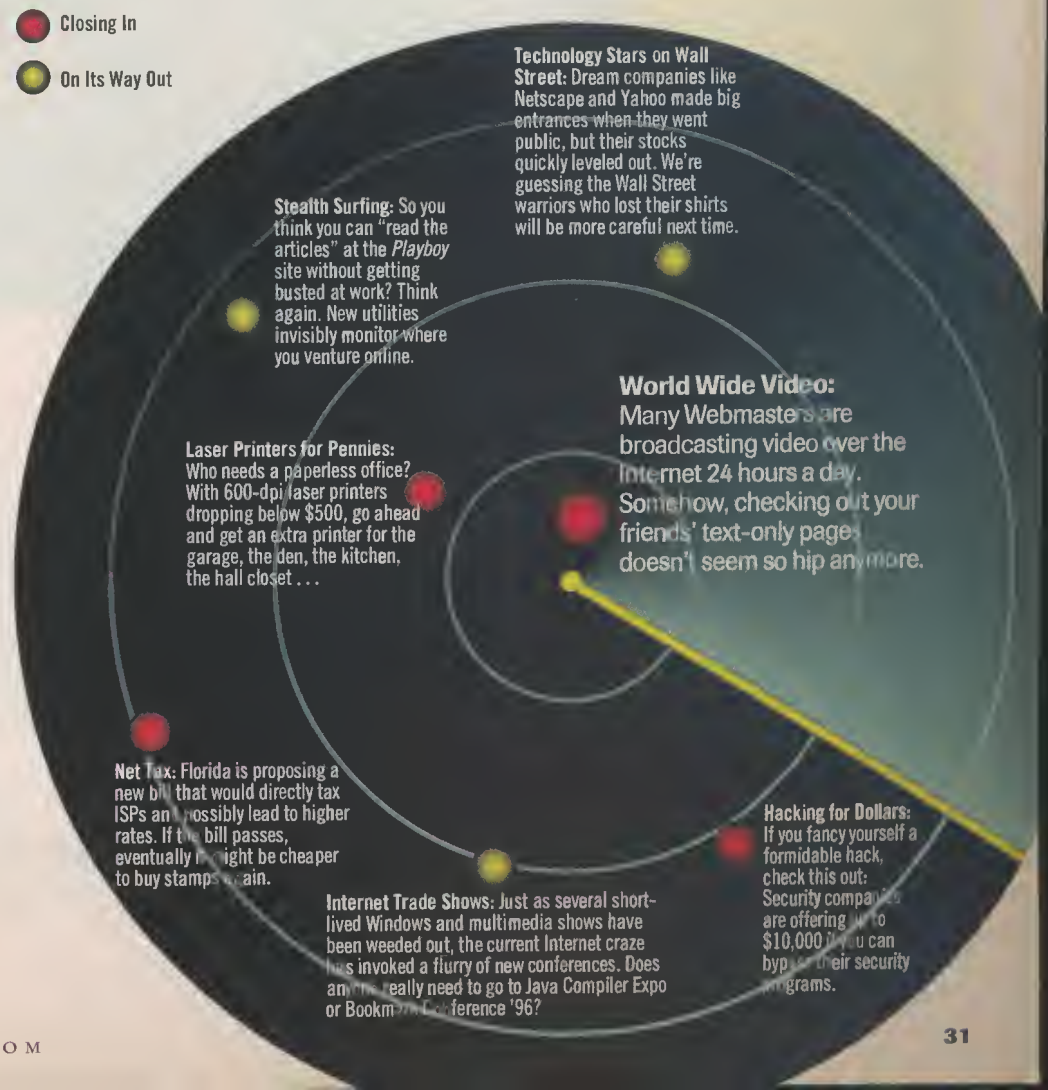
ISDN-equipped Internet service providers are everywhere. Here are the cheapest ISDN modems we could find as of April 30, 1996.

Product	Price
Boca WebGlider-460 *PC Mall* *(800) 555-6255*	$310
3Com DMD1382 *Computer Discount Warehouse* *(800) 400-4239*	$349
U.S. Robotics Sportster *NECX Direct* *(508) 538-8100*	$369
Motorola Bitsurfer Pro *Data Comm Warehouse* *(800) 328-2261*	$399
Fujitsu ISDN PCMCIA Card *Direct Source* *(800) 266-6533*	$528

Reader Service Numbers: PC Mall, *606;* Computer Discount Warehouse, *607;* NECX Direct, *608;* Data Comm Warehouse, *609;* Direct Source, *610.*

RADAR: Web TV, Expensive E-mail

What's on the scope? If a blip is near or moving toward the middle of the radar screen, check it out. If it's moving off the screen, steer clear for now.



You never give your HP printer a second thought. You just know it's going to work. Now that same HP performance can be found in a line of PCs designed specifically for the demands of small business. The HP Vectra 500 PCs. They arrive ready to work—some armed with Microsoft® Office for Windows® 95 Professional Edition and Microsoft Publisher. And to make everything a little more manageable, HP gives you free online service and support. Dealers include: Intelligent Electronics, Computerland, Datago, MicroAge, Inacom and CompUSA Corporate. For more information, call 1-800-322-HPPC, Ext. 1558.† And see what a good family name can do for you.

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Minitower or Desktop models:
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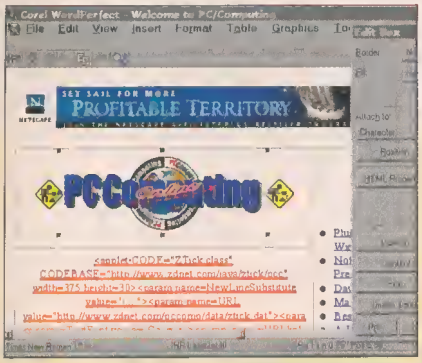
- 64-bit PCI video
- 2.5GB hard drive[2]
- 4X, 6X or 8X EIDE CD-ROM Drive[3]
- 28.8 fax/data modem with telephone answering machine[4]
- 16-bit Soundblaster audio[4]
- Hands-free headset with microphone[4]
- 1-year on-site warranty[5]
- 1-year free phone support for hardware, 90-day free software support

†In Canada, call 1-800-387-3867. *Average U.S. street price for Pentium® processor-based HP Vectra 510 5/75 PC. Monitor not included. HP Vectra 500 PCs come with Microsoft Windows 95 preinstalled. [1]Standard on 133 and 166 MCx models, optional on all other models. [2]Other capacities available. [3]Standard on CD, MC and MCx models. [4]Multimedia models only. [5]On-site, second-day business service. Microsoft and Windows are U.S. registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Pentium and the Intel Inside logo are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. ©1996 Hewlett-Packard Company. PPG429

HP PCs For Small Business

HEWLETT® PACKARD



WordPerfect Gets Wired

Both of Corel's new business application suites—WordPerfect Suite and Office Professional—combine an impressive collection of productivity apps, including WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Corel Presentations, Envoy, and Sidekick. Office Professional adds Paradox, InfoCentral, and Groupwise. But to battle Microsoft's hold on the office-suite market, Corel is adding several Internet weapons to both packages.

The final mix of Net apps weren't determined at press time, but plans to include several Web tools are already under way. Additional Internet smarts might be added over the next year as they're developed.

For starters, both suites will include a version of Personal Web Server that turns your desktop PC into a server. They'll also likely include Corel's Web.Design, a utility that lets you build a home page with links to and from any document produced with one of the WordPerfect Suite applications. A Java applet that works like a printer driver is also planned. It will convert documents to Web files while leaving the original format and graphics intact.

Corel Office Professional is also expected to include at least 16 Internet-related QuickTasks for leading you through processes such as creating an Internet account and linking sites. The coolest feature—a Web-site extractor—will be available in both suites. It downloads URLs and their linked files and graphics so you can make changes offline. **RW**

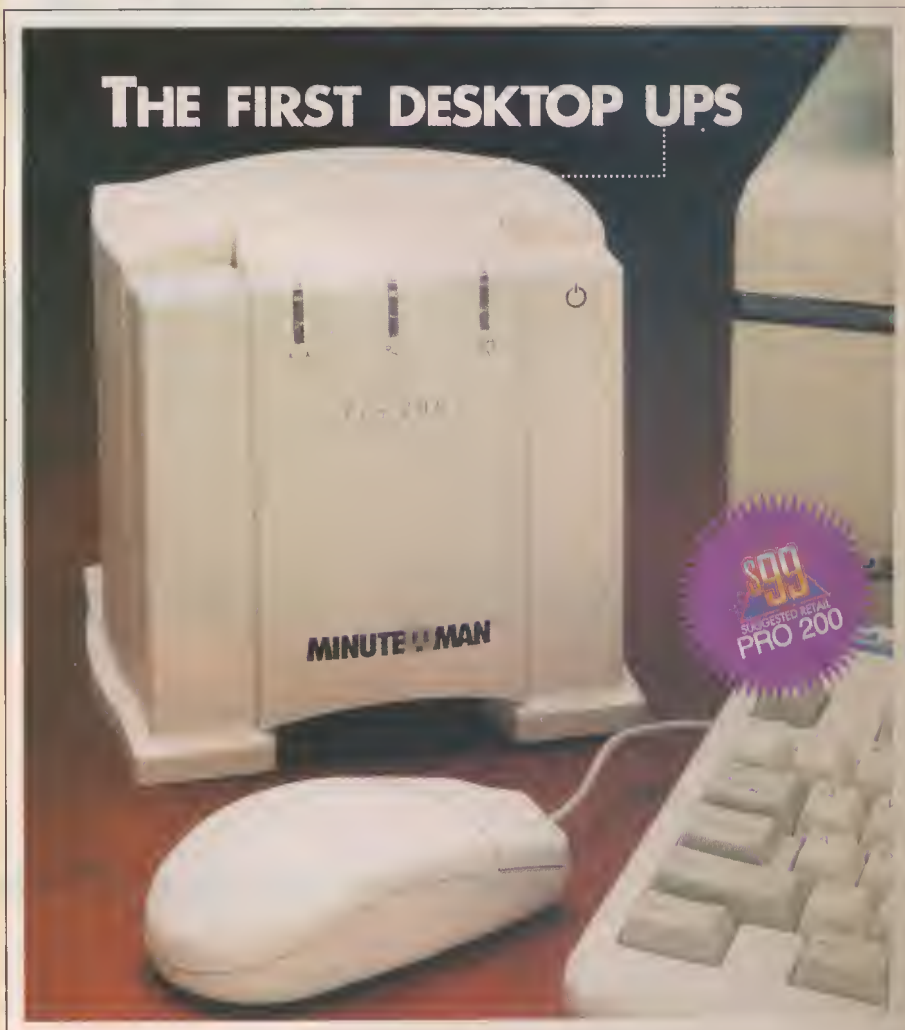
WordPerfect Suite and Office Professional / Corel Corp. / $299 and $600 est. street prices; $99 and $179 for upgrades / (800) 772-6735 / *Reader Service No. 611*

Contributors to Pulse: KYLA K. CARLSON, MIKE HOGAN, JULIE POLITO, RICH SCHWERIN, AND RON WHITE.
Edited by JACK LYON.

No MBA Required

Business Resource Software's **Quick Insight** is a powerful analysis tool that keeps your business healthy. Through a series of 65 rigorous questions designed in conjunction with **business guru Michael Porter,** Quick Insight gathers information about your positioning, pricing, and marketing techniques. The program then provides a **comprehensive business analysis** to help you secure the success of your products and services. RS

Quick Insight / Business Resource Software / $129 est. street price / (800) 423-1228 / *Reader Service No. 612*



Finally, there's a UPS that belongs on TOP of your desk and not by your feet.

MINUTEMAN's new Pro Series packs a host of new features and unprecedented power protection in a tiny, ergonomic package, plus an unmatched three year warranty.

Good looks may go a long way for some desktop products, but the Pro Series has so much more to offer PCs, servers, networks, and even telecommunications equipment:

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Minuteman is the first company to offer you a smart UPS with automatic voltage regulation for only $109.

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(It occurred to us you might want a lighter notebook.)

Of course, it also occurred to us that you don't want to lose features while losing weight. Thus, the new AcerNote™ Light notebook computer offers a Pentium® processor, full-size keyboard and large 10.4" color screen.

But it still weighs just 5.8 pounds. Which we think you'll appreciate when you're traveling from, say, Dallas to New York. Half the distance of which is covered while walking to the gate. ACER

AcerNote Light
100MHz Pentium Processor

- 10.4" Dual Scan Color Display
- 8MB EDO RAM (40MB Max)
- 810MB Hard Drive
- 5.8 Pounds
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- 1MB Video DRAM
- 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Large Full-Size Keyboard
- 16-bit Sound Blaster™ Compatible Audio
- Touchpad with Ergonomic Palmrest
- 3-Year Limited Warranty/ 1-Year Rapid Repair
- *Double your RAM to 16MB for only $299*

$1999

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6am-6pm Weekdays, 8am-4pm Saturday Pacific Time

(It also occurred to us you might want other options.)

AcerNote Light
100MHz Pentium Processor

- 10.4" Active Matrix Color Display
- 16MB RAM (40MB Max)
- 810MB Hard Drive
- 5.8 Pounds
- Duracell® NiMH Battery
- 1MB Video DRAM
- 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
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- 16-bit Sound Blastet™ Compatible Audio
- Touchpad with Ergonomic Palmrest
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AcerNote Pro
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- 10.4" Active Mattix Color Display
- 16MB RAM (40MB Max)
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- 256KB L2 Cache
- 6.5 Pounds
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- 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- 16-bit Sound Blaster™ Compatible Audio
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- 3-Yeat Limited Warranty/ 1-Year Rapid Repair

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AcerNote Pro
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- 10.4" Active Matrix Color Display
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- 1GB Hard Dtive
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- 1MB Video DRAM
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- 16-bit Sound Blaster™ Compatible Audio
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- ***28.8 Modem Included***

$3499

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- 2-button Mouse
- Stand-alone Speakers
- Standard Keyboard
- 3 ISA Expansion Ports/ 3 Storage Bays
- Removable Cover for External CRT
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Designed for Microsoft® Windows®95

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6am-6pm Weekdays, 8am-4pm Saturday Pacific Time

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Circle 167 on reader service card.

The A-List

Editors' Top Picks by Wendy Taylor

	Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*	More Info
Systems: High-Performance Pentium	Gateway P5-200CDR	**Windows at 200MHz? Once you've been there, there's no turning back. And did we mention the CD-R drive is included?**	$3,999, 200MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 2.5GB, 8X CD-ROM.	This issue, page [illegible] (800) 846-[illegible] Reader Service No. [illegible]
Systems: High-Performance Pentium Pro	Micron Pro 200 Magnum Plus	**Power that will rock you back on your heels. Feed it native 32-bit apps only.**	$5,896, 200MHz Pentium Pro, 32MB RAM, 2GB hard drive.	June 1996, page 70 (800) 515-9197 Reader Service No. 619
Systems: Desktop Workhorse	Micron Electronics P166 Millennia	**The sweet spot for systems: the performance you crave and all the extras, too.**	$3,897, 166MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.2GB, 6X CD-ROM.	This issue, page 16 (800) 515-9197 Reader Service No. 620
Systems: Low-Cost Desktop PC	Dell Dimension P100t	**Priced so low even your cheapest relatives will bite.**	$1,979, 100MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1GB, 4X CD-ROM.	Jan. 1996, page [illegible] (800) 433-6675 Reader Service No. 621
Systems: SOHO System	Compaq Presario 9240	**Command central for any home office—manages your fax, voice, and e-mail messages while you get down to work.**	$3,087, 133MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.2GB hard drive.	May 1996, page 83 (800) 345-1518 Reader Service No. 622
Systems: High-Performance Web Server	Hewlett-Packard Vectra XU 6/200	**The hottest NT Web box you can buy—with room for a second processor and acres of storage.**	$7,050, 200MHz Pentium Pro, 32MB RAM, 2GB hard drive.	June 1996, page 70 (800) 752-0900
Systems: Pricewise Direct System	HiQuality Computer C166+ PowerStation	**This 133MHz 6x86 runs faster than many 166MHz Pentiums. Are you feeling the heat yet, Intel?**	$2,550, 133MHz 6x86, 16MB RAM, 2.1GB hard drive.	June 1996, page 66 (800) 827-5836 Reader Service No. 623
Network Servers	Compaq ProSignia 300 5/90 Model 2100	**Who needs an information systems department? This server is so well designed, it runs itself.**	$3,749, 90MHz Pentium, 32MB RAM, 2GB hard drive.	Nov. 1995, page 138 (800) 345-1518 Reader Service No. 624
Network Servers	Digital Prioris LX 590	**Our labs call it the fastest server to hit our test bench; we call it a great deal.**	$3,249, 90MHz Pentium, 192MB RAM, 4X CD-ROM drive.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 344-4825 Reader Service No. 625
Network Servers	Compaq ProLiant 1500	**A reliable anchor for 15 or more network nodes.**	$13,099, 166MHz Pentium, 128MB RAM, two 2.1GB SCSI-2 drives.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 345-1518 Reader Service No. 626
Network Servers	Hewlett-Packard NetServer 5/133 LS2	**Two onboard processors and loaded with technical wizardry.**	$25,095, two 133MHz Pentium CPUs, 768MB, five 2.1GB SCSI drives.	March 1996, page 158 (800) 322-4772
Portables: Portable Desktop Replacement	Toshiba Tecra 720CDT	**The follow-you-around office: 133MHz Pentium, removable six-speed CD-ROM drive, and 12.1-inch hi-res display.**	$6,299, 133MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.13GB hard drive.	June 1996, page 69 (800) 999-42[illegible] Reader Service No. 627
Portables: Lightweight Traveling Notebook	IBM ThinkPad 560	**Thin is in. Get a glorious 12.1-inch display in a box so slim you'll take it everywhere.**	Prices TBA, 120MHz Pentium, 8MB RAM, B10MB hard drive.	This issue, page 52 (800) 426-7255 Reader Service No. 628
Portables: Low-Cost Color Portable	Texas Instruments Extensa Model 450	**All the extras of Dell's Latitude and Toshiba's Satellite for under two grand. Let the price wars begin!**	$1,499, 75MHz 4B6DX4, 8MB RAM, 340MB hard drive.	March 1996, page 282 (800) 848-3927 Reader Service No. 629
Portables: Multimedia Notebook	NEC Versa 4050C	**A quick-change artist for the road: Swap the four-speed CD-ROM drive for a hard drive, battery, or floppy drive.**	$4,499, 90MHz Pentium, 8MB RAM, B10MB hard drive.	May 1996, page 110 (800) 632-4636 Reader Service No. [illegible]0
Portables: State-of-the-art Portable	IBM ThinkPad 760CD	**If James Bond carried a portable, this would be it. It packs more features than your average desktop PC.**	$6,8B9, 120MHz Pentium, removable 4X CD-ROM drive.	March 1996, page [illegible] (800) 426-[illegible] Reader Service N[illegible]

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

The A-List *Continued on page 40*

		Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*	More Info
Desktop Printers	Desktop Laser Printer	Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5MP	**You can buy a faster laser, but not a better one. Plus, who needs cables? Beam jobs to the IR port instead.**	$1,049, 6 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL 5 (PostScript optional), infrared port.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 752-0900
	Low-Cost Color Printer	Canon BJC-4100	**Low-maintenance, high-quality color—and sanely priced.**	$299, 720-by-360-dpi black, 360-dpi color.	Feb. 1996, page 140 (800) 848-4123 Reader Service No. 632
	Desktop Color Printer	Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 855C	**Near–laser-quality color output for a tenth of the price.**	$499, 600 dpi, 7-ppm black, 3-ppm color.	Feb. 1996, page 140 (800) 752-0900
	Portable Printer	Citizen PN60	**Slip it in your briefcase, then wow clients when you produce color pages on the spot.**	$299, 360-dpi thermal transfer, 1.5 pounds.	Feb. 1995, page 64 (310) 453-0614 Reader Service No. 633
[illegible]		Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5Si MX	**Even 50-page print jobs fly out faster than you can trot down the hall to claim them.**	$4,199, 24 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL 5e, PostScript Level 2.	Jan. 1996, page 89 (800) 752-0900
		Lexmark Optra C	**Lightning-fast color laser output for just 17 cents per page.**	$6,150, 12-ppm black, 3-ppm color.	April 1996, page 115 (800) 891-0331 Reader Service No. 634
		Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 1600CM	**Churns out brilliant color pages faster than you can produce them.**	$1,999, 9-ppm black, 4-ppm color.	Nov. 1995, page 172 (800) 752-0900
Video	High-Resolution 20- or 21-Inch Monitor	Sony Multiscan 20sfII	**Think big. This 20-inch bargain gives you enough room to view six windows at a time.**	$2,299, 20-inch, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 75Hz, Plug and Play.	June 1996, page 156 (800) 352-7669, ext. 119 Reader Service No. 635
	High-Resolution 17-Inch Monitor	Samsung SyncMaster 17 GLi	**See what you've been missing with this 17-inch steal. At this price, there's no reason to settle for a smaller display.**	$799, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 60Hz.	Stayed tuned. (800) 726-7864 Reader Service No. 636
	High-Resolution Graphics Accelerator	Matrox MGA Millennium	**Ultrafast Windows RAM and 3-D acceleration make this the graphics card to covet.**	$399, 4MB WRAM, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 76Hz, PCI interface.	April 1996, page 149 (800) 583-4353 Reader Service No. 637
Storage	Removable Storage	Iomega Jaz Drive	**The easiest, most affordable way to put a gigabyte in your PC. If you see one, buy it.**	$499 (internal), $599 (external), SCSI-2.	April 1996, page 53 (800) 697-8833 Reader Service No. 638
	CD-ROM Drive	NEC MultiSpin 4Xc	**The best bargain around: Queue up seven discs in this quad-speed jukebox for the price of a single-disc drive.**	$349, SCSI interface, seven-disc changer.	Oec 1995, page 158 (800) 632-4636 Reader Service No. 639
	Hard Drive	Seagate Medalist 2140	**Be greedy. At this price, why not get two?**	$360, Fast ATA-2, 10.5ms access time, 2.51GB storage.	Stay tuned. (408) 438-8111 Reader Service No. 640
	Network Storage	Mega Drive Systems MR5 RAID Disk Array	**Bulletproof backup and storage for your network data.**	$9,500, 5GB RAID array.	Nov. 1995, page 186 (800) 404-6342 Reader Service No. 641
Peripherals	Personal Scanner	Visioneer PaperPort Vx	**The quickest way to tame your paper in-box. It moves paper off your desk and onto your hard drive in seconds.**	$299, 400 dpi, document-management software.	Jan. 1996, page 92 (800) 787-7007, ext. 102 Reader Service No. 642
	Multimedia Sound Card	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32 PnP	**The ultimate for business multimedia. Makes Doom more fun, too.**	$250, 32-voice polyphony, 16-bit DSP.	Jan. 1996, page 173 (800) 998-5227 Reader Service No 643
	High-speed Fax Modem	U.S. Robotics Courier I-Modem	**A bridge to the future—you get a 28.8Kbps analog and ISDN modem in one.**	$650, ISDN and V.34 (28.8Kbps).	June 1996, page 118 (800) 877-2677 Reader Service No. 644

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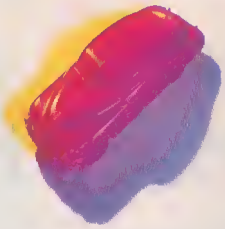

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The A-List *Continued from page 38*

		Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*	More Info
Desktop Applications	Software Suite	Microsoft Office for Windows 95	**If you only buy one software title, this should be it. For Web publishing, download the new Internet Assistants.**	$499 (Standard Edition), 2BMB to 89MB hard disk space.	Sept. 1995, page 83 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 645
	Word Processor	Microsoft Word for Windows 95	**The de facto standard for businesses everywhere. For smart version control, check out Lotus's Word Pro.**	$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM.	May 1996, page 149 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 646
	Spreadsheet	Microsoft Excel for Windows 95	**It's a one-horse race, folks, and guess who's winning?**	$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 647
	Database	Microsoft Access for Windows 95	**Finally! You don't have to be a power nerd to put this database to work. Plus, check out the new Internet assistants.**	$339, Windows 95 or or Windows NT 3.51, 12MB RAM.	Jan. 1996, page 162 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 648
Graphics Applications		Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows 95	**Build a winning sales presentation on your lunch hour—then publish and deliver it on the Web.**	$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 14MB to 35MB hard disk space.	March 1996, page 183 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 649
		Microsoft Publisher for Windows 95	**The ultimate vanity press: Create terrific-looking pages without even trying.**	$80, 3B6 CPU, 8MB RAM, 6MB hard disk space.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 426-9400 Reader Service No. 650
		QuarkXPress 3.31 for Windows	**Produces pages as slick as the ones in your hands. PageMaker shops should check out PageMaker for Windows 95.**	$560, 4B6 CPU, 8MB RAM, 12MB to 15MB hard disk space.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 788-7835 Reader Service No. 651
		CorelDraw 6	**The all-in-one graphics toolkit for Windows 95: Draw, edit, and design your own masterpieces.**	$525, Windows 95, 4B6 CPU, BMB RAM.	April 1996, page 101 (800) 772-6735 Reader Service No. 652
		Adobe Photoshop 3.0 for Windows	**A digital darkroom for your PC. For a performance boost, check out the new Windows 95/NT upgrade.**	$549, 4B6 CPU, BMB RAM, 20MB hard disk space.	April 1996, page 101 (800) 833-6687 Reader Service No. 653
Finance	Personal Finance	Intuit Quicken Deluxe 5 for Windows	**Never visit a bank again—this is branch-office checking from your hard drive.**	$60, 3B6 CPU, 4MB RAM, 7MB hard disk space.	Feb. 1996, page 159 (800) 624-8742 Reader Service No. 654
	Business Accounting	Intuit QuickBooks Pro 4.0	**Cheaper than your average accountant, and a lot easier to understand.**	$189, 4B6 CPU, 4MB RAM, 12MB hard disk space.	This issue, page 169 (800) 624-8742 Reader Service No. 655
Communications	Fax-Communications Software	Symantec Delrina CommSuite 95	**One launchpad for all your Internet fixes. Sends e-mail and faxes, too.**	$99, 4B6 CPU, 8MB RAM, 30MB hard disk space.	Nov. 1995, page 83 (800) 441-7234 Reader Service No. 656
	Web Browser	Netscape Navigator 3.0	**Still the best way to explore the Web. Download the latest version via www.pccomputing.com.**	$49, Windows 95, 4MB RAM, Internet access.	Stay tuned. (800) 638-7483 Reader Service No. 657
Tools and Utilities	Antivirus Software	Symantec Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95	**Fast and painless virus-hunting for Windows 95. Just in: a scanner for rogue Java applets.**	$79, Windows 95, 4B6 CPU, 8MB RAM.	Oct. 1995, page 116 (800) 441-7234 Reader Service No. 658
	Internet Search Engine	Digital Alta Vista	**The fastest, smartest, baddest way to find what you need on the Web. Check it out via www.pccomputing.com.**	Free, Internet access.	May 1996, page 68 Reader Service No. 659
	System Utility	Symantec Norton Utilities for Windows 95	**Resuscitates dead files and diagnoses hardware problems before they happen. Everyone should have a copy.**	$119, Windows 95, 4B6 CPU, 8MB RAM.	Dec. 1995, page 158 (800) 441-7234 Reader Service No. 660
	Web Phone	Quarterdeck WebTalk	**Lets you make free phone calls on the Web—try it while it's still legal.**	$50, Windows 95, 486 CPU, BMB RAM, Internet access.	May 1996, page 66 (800) 683-6696 Reader Service No. 661

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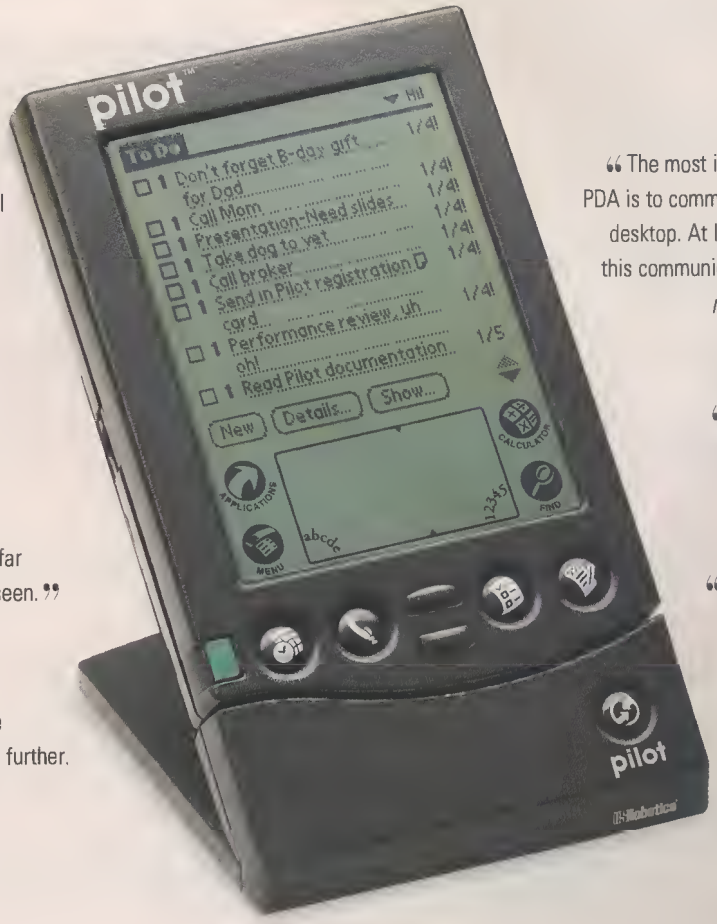

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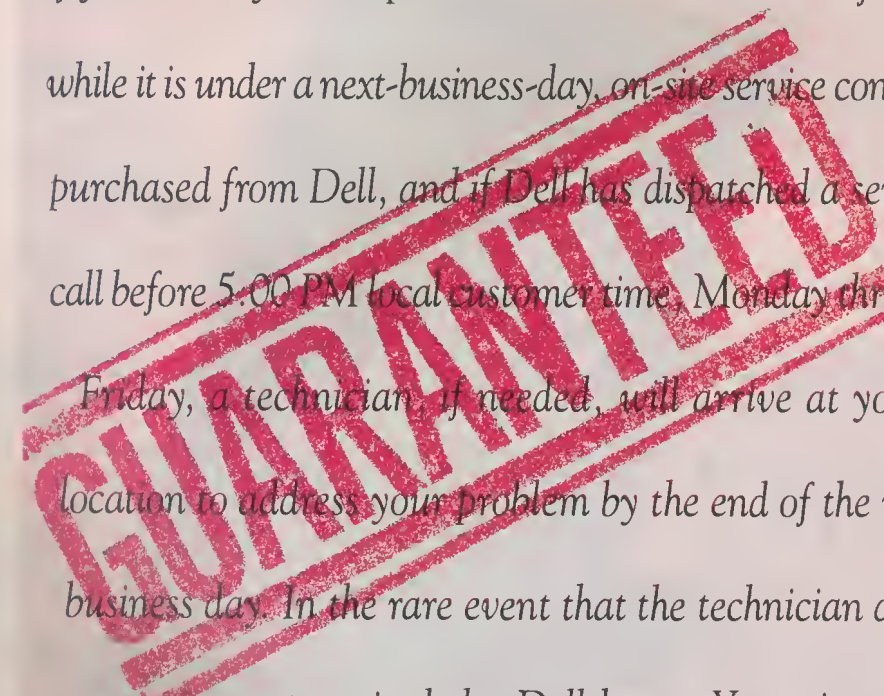

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Paul Somerson

Hate to Wait?

What's the most agonizing delay? The post office on April 15th? Disneyland rides at Christmas? Motor vehicle departments everywhere? **DOOMSDAY TRAFFIC TIE-UPS** on a summer-escape Friday? That's all kid's stuff compared with the hours you spend in thousands of little annoying chunks waiting for your PC. Paul's Law: The faster the CPU, the more delays you're forced to endure.

Chubby, sloppy software is one culprit. Software developers know that speedier CPUs mean they can jam in more time-consuming doodads, and **WRITE FAT, LAZY, UNOPTIMIZED, RUSH-IT-TO-MARKET CODE.** When you see the words *Exciting new features!* on the upgrade box, it really means *You're gonna be seeing a lot more of your hourglass.*

Compared with the crawling systems of just a few years ago, today's hardware flies. But even with the fastest CPUs, how much of your life do you spend staring at an onscreen "wait" icon, or watching a progress meter inch slowly up while your computer yawns and refuses to budge?

Another villain is **ONLINE CONSTIPATION.** Web developers figure everyone has such zippy hardware that they can create overly complex line-choking 200K pages and jam streaming video down the pipe. This may be marginally acceptable over ISDN or Hughes's DirecPC 400Kbps satellite, or the T1 at most offices. But even with bigger pipelines, servers are so congested and bottlenecks so common that online sessions resemble Moscow bread lines.

The **WORST OFFENDER,** however, is the operating system. In some ways Windows 95 and NT are clearly superior to earlier versions, but in many areas they're far slower. Ever want to jot down a short note or check a quick figure or a schedule? Flick on your system and **GO GET A CAPPUCCINO.** *Ca-chunk ca-chunk ca-chunk, wheeze wheeze wheeze . . . .*

One option is to keep your computer on all the time, which lots of users do at work where someone else is paying the bills, but not at home where greedy utilities companies charge sky-high hourly rates. Most systems lack the sort of **INSTANT-ON CIRCUITRY** that's inside every TV set. So whenever you turn on your PC, it's coffee-break time.

Microsoft knows that these delays are getting out of hand. Its proposed home system—Simply Interactive PC—boasts a welcome feature called OnNow that snaps the machine to life in under five seconds. This technology will rapidly migrate to business PCs.

Essentially, all OnNow does is keep certain parts of your system (like RAM) turned on all the time, then quickly brings the **JUICE HOGS** like hard disks and monitors to life when you hit the switch. This is just smart marketing. PC users will put up with anything. Technophobic home users won't stand for normal multi-minute boot delays.

It's about time.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES McGOON

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John C. Dvorak

Pipe Dreams

Most World Wide Web "visionaries" tend to share the same hallucinations, developed at a conference. The latest is that the Web will consolidate into a few big players—and the process has already started. The thousands of Web sites cropping up monthly have little chance to succeed, because megacorporations will rule the roost.

Other delusions make this prediction more believable. The first is that Netscape, Yahoo, and other high-flying stocks won't be able to withstand the inevitable reality check. The entire high-tech world of bloated price/earnings–ratio superstocks is going to crumble any minute. Research reports make matters worse by indicating that the Web will be running at capacity (whatever that is!) by the first quarter of 1997, and will be so clogged that everything will have to be seriously restructured to the way it ought to be (whatever that is!).

The notion that the Web will clog up is further compounded by (1) the obvious incompetence of the phone companies to deliver enough service, (2) the possible failure of cable-modem technology, (3) Internet protocol–address shortages, (4) overuse of bandwidth-hogging net TV and net radio technologies, and (5) excessive use of bandwidth-sapping multimedia pages.

So boom, collapse, consolidation. There will be a serious shakeout and when things stabilize, the Web will start over again in 1998, owned by the big boys.

Well, this grim scenario is only wishful thinking on the part of large companies that hope to stave off a direct threat to their core print-oriented business. It's ludicrous to say this in print, but print as we know it is dead. Furthermore, big print companies cannot go heavily into the Web without suffering enormously in the process and ending up as small companies. The problem is that no large print publisher can get too far into Web services without chopping into its core business.

I'm amused by the latest iteration of TV Guide Online: The site is very polished and professional looking. Hot, in fact. It's pretty much everything you want from *TV Guide*, and it's free. You can easily print out the daily listings and browse a few low-IQ articles. There's even a word game to take the place of the crossword puzzle. There are no advertisements as far as I could tell.

So what's wrong with this picture? This is one of the sites Web critics point out saying, "See? You can't make money on the Web." I suppose not, since they aren't even trying. You have to ask yourself what the heck *TV Guide* wants to accomplish with this site. When you ask most print magazine publishers about their sites they usually say, "We're using it to generate subscriptions to the magazine." At some point it's tempting to ask if they'd rather commit suicide with a revolver or a hari-kari knife.

Online magazine sites can do one of two things: nothing at all, or cannibalize their print version. Unfortunately, everyone in print media is in the awkward position of trying to find a way to make the transition from print to Web without going broke. Just yesterday someone told me they didn't bother to renew their free subscription to a weekly trade journal because they get the stories online three days before the print edition hits the streets. It's actually better on the Web! If this newspaper stopped its online service, some Web-zine would sneak in and do it. There are already a slew of Mac Web-zines. I think they're screwed.

Smart technology-oriented publishers have a sense of this problem. But big mass-market publishers such as Hearst, Times Mirror, Bertelsmann, and Condé Nast are totally clueless. They're lucky the mass market hasn't discovered the Web yet. There will be blood in the streets when these big guys start to scramble in a panic unlike anything we've ever witnessed. That's when the supposed consolidation will take place. What it will amount to is big boneheads with too much money buying up everything in sight, oblivious to the fact that the online business model is completely different from the print model.

Some will manage to work within the new structure but most won't. The biggest fallout will be the corrupt distribution channel. And it's unlikely to reemerge on the Web. Companies that work well within the old Mafia-ridden system or those that own powerful distributors themselves (Hearst owns one of the best) won't have this advantage any more. There is no shelf-space problem on the Web. Distribution is built in, and a Web-zine has the same reach as a Web version of *Vanity Fair*.

This means that a small, quality publisher has the same chance to succeed as a schlockmeister with deep pockets. And scads of folks would just as soon make a Web product at home instead of work for a conglomerate. Since it's entirely possible that the guy working from home will even make more money, what idiot will work for a big corporation? There are enough people out there to fill the Web with lively material for the next 100 years. Web consolidation is a pipe dream.

It's **INEVITABLE:** *Boom, collapse,* **CONSOLIDATION.** *There will be a serious* **SHAKEOUT** *and when things stabilize, the* **WEB** *will* **START OVER** *again in 1998, owned by the big boys—***NOT!**

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES McGOON

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Windows Stellar APRIL 1996

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TRNS PCCP 9606

Circle 113 on reader service card.

New!

IBM ThinkPad 560

Ultratrim and Built

SNEAK PREVIEW

Thin is in. While rumors swirl about superskinny portables due out soon from several industry heavyweights, IBM's ThinkPad 560 is hitting the mat. From an early preview we can confirm that the machine heralds a new era for portables. IBM's newest is thinner than Montana pond ice in April.

Raise the lid, and a 12.1-inch active-matrix display appears. Jaws will drop at the color and luminance beaming from a machine that weighs a mere 4.1 pounds and measures a little more than 1 inch thick. IBM's ability to shoehorn an active-matrix panel—not to mention a motherboard, power supply, hard drive, and keyboard—into such a slender form factor crosses a new threshold in notebook engineering.

The screen is the same one found on Big Blue's portly multimedia offerings. The display looks stunningly bright. Although it was engineered to be slightly dimmer when running on batteries to save charge life, colors are radiant even when there's no AC outlet in sight. In fact, the ThinkPad 560 is the first ultraportable from any maker that comfortably serves as a presentation platform. After all, its display is bigger than the screens on most notebooks weighing twice as much. And as you'd expect, it renders pixel resolutions of 800 by 600 onscreen, and 1,024 by 768 on an external monitor. But then who needs an external monitor when you've got a display that's as large as many 14-inch desktop CRTs?

Of course, there's no CD-ROM drive. But there is Sound Blaster–compatible 16-bit audio. There's even a stereo speaker shrewdly mounted under the keyboard (audio effects seem to emanate from nowhere the first few times you hear them). If nothing else, the ThinkPad 560 should once and for all ring the death knell for flip charts.

Bye-bye, Butterfly Gone is the expanding keyboard found on IBM's 701C, or Butterfly. Gone, for that matter, is the Butterfly. With a 12.1-inch screen, a full-size keyboard fits into the 560's form factor: 8.7 by 11.7 by 1.2 inches. There's even enough space for a 3-inch wrist rest—long overdue for the ThinkPad family.

In other words, the ThinkPad 560 is bigger than the Butterfly it replaces, but it's thinner and gains no extra weight. This

12.1-Inch Screen: The ThinkPad 560's high-resolution screen offers as much viewing area as many 14-inch CRTs.

Full-size Keyboard: Fortunately, the notebook's trim design doesn't compromise the keyboard.

Guide to PC Computing's Ratings

Excellent *Market leader that offers exceptional performance* ..... ★★★★★

Good *Excels in many areas; a good buy* ..... ★★★★

Acceptable *Average for its class; a justifiable purchase* ..... ★★★

Poor *Out-of-date or substandard; offset by some positive features* ..... ★★

Unacceptable *Missing necessary features; avoid* ..... ★

to Travel

is a win-win upgrade, which you'll better appreciate when you're in a mad panic at an airport departure gate, certain the light load of your briefcase means you left the machine behind. As you thrash through papers and whatnot, it will peek out from a back compartment. This is a machine that utterly desires to travel.

Pump It Up Another departure from the Butterfly is the ThinkPad 560's power. It's driven by a 100MHz, 120MHz, or—soon—133MHz Pentium CPU. Because our 120MHz test unit was a prototype, we couldn't run performance benchmarks. But ThinkPads have never been leaders in raw performance. And IBM's subnotebooks in particular have traditionally been saddled with anemic CPUs. We applaud IBM for making high-end processors available in the 560.

As a standard configuration, the ThinkPad 560 comes with a mere 8MB of EDO RAM, although it's expandable to 40MB. It's a fair bet that anyone in the market for a 133MHz Pentium notebook will want at least 16MB.

An 810MB hard drive is standard (there's a 1.08GB option) but it's nonremovable—a small price to pay for the system's slender design. 1GB of storage should be adequate, even for long multimedia presentations. Despite the 560's big screen and fast CPU, it's a traveling machine, not a desktop replacement.

Otherwise, the ThinkPad 560 comes with the same complement of features you'd find on any full-size notebook. We're happy to see the VGA port migrate to the system itself (on the Butterfly it required an external connector). There are two Type II PC Card slots. But whether you can jimmy just any old Type II device into that tight space is questionable. The machine features an infrared port, audio I/O connectors, a port for the detachable floppy drive, and an integrated microphone.

Cost Benefit IBM offers an 11.3-inch dual-scan passive-matrix display as an option. Couple that with the 100MHz Pentium processor, and you can own a ThinkPad 560 starting at $2,700—a price that should keep Big Blue's phone ringing until Christmas. Our test unit, a 120MHz Pentium with a resplendent 12.1-inch active-matrix screen, costs more; final prices weren't set at press time, but IBM expects its high-end models to cost $3,900.

FILEBOX

ThinkPad 560

★★★★★

Verdict: The most civilized productivity portable you can buy.

Pros: Thinner than last year's bonus and has a big, big screen.

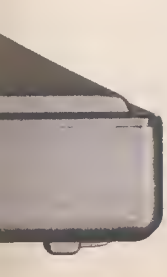
Cons: Leave your CDs at home.

Features as Tested: 120MHz Pentium, 8MB of EDO RAM, 810MB hard drive, 12.1-inch active-matrix display, PCI local bus, 16-bit audio, infrared port, lithium-ion battery.

$2,700 to $3,900 (final prices not available)
IBM
(800) 772-2227
Reader Service No. 671

Given its big display and small lithium-ion battery, the only question hanging over the machine is battery life. From our informal testing, the portable lasted as long or longer than any full-size notebook on a single charge. If formal battery tests bear this out, the ThinkPad 560 has every right to call itself the finest productivity portable on the market. **MARTY JEROME**

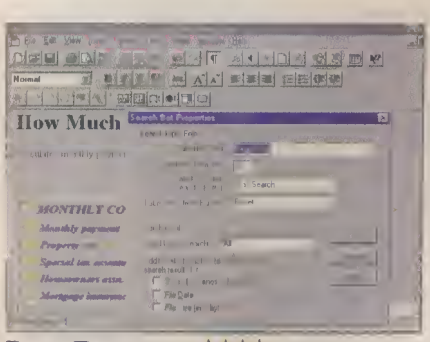
Light but Loaded: IBM manages to squeeze a 12.1-inch active-matrix display, a fast Pentium CPU, and a big hard drive into its 4.1-pound ThinkPad ultraportable.



Slim Profile: Just 0.87 inches thick with the top up (shown here at actual size), IBM's arresting ThinkPad 560 heralds a new era of ultrathin portables.

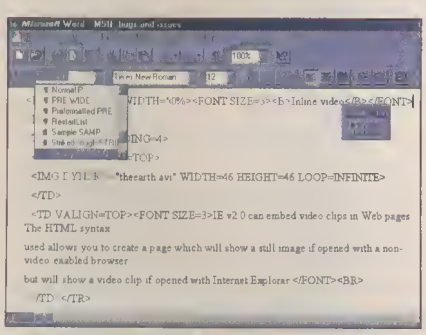
PHOTOGRAPHS BY [illegible]

Microsoft Office: Meeting



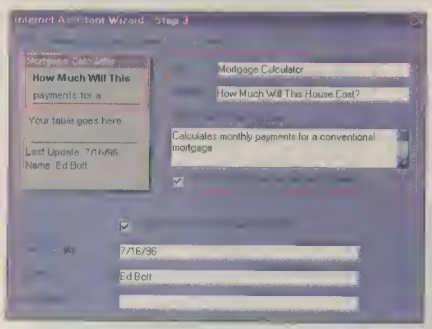
FrontPage 1.1 ☆☆☆☆

Verdict: A great start for integrating highly graphical Web publishing into the Office family at an unbeatable price.



Word Internet Assistant ☆☆☆

Verdict: A capable tool for quickly converting Word documents into Web pages, but it runs out of gas too soon for serious Web publishers.



Excel Internet Assistant ☆☆☆☆

Verdict: Turns spreadsheet ranges into HTML tables in five easy steps. Too bad it doesn't support Excel charts and graphs as well.

SNEAK PREVIEW

How many shrink-wrapped software packages does it take to make a Web page? If you said more than one, don't bother sending your résumé to Microsoft. In Redmond, the fast-moving Internet strategy is to weave Web browsing and authoring tools into Microsoft's flagship desktop application suite, Office. Eventually, the company hopes to make shifting from Word to Excel to a Web page so smooth that you'll hardly feel a ripple.

A key part of the strategy is to make Office-formatted documents accessible to Web surfers who don't own or use Office. That piece of the puzzle is already in place with free viewers that let Windows and Macintosh users work with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, or Access files. Some of the viewers are even into their second generation. Microsoft's Word viewer comes standard with Windows 95, but an updated version is available on Microsoft's Web site that includes new features like support for Internet Shortcuts. But the second strategic objective—turning those same Office applications into tools that can create native HTML documents—is just beginning.

Last fall, Microsoft acquired Vermeer Software and its FrontPage suite of HTML-authoring and Web-site management software. Around the same time, Microsoft introduced the first in a series of free Internet Assistants—add-ins to all the Office applications (most designed for use with Windows 95 and Windows NT only) that make it possible to quickly produce simple HTML documents.

FrontPage 1.1 Last April, Microsoft stole a page from Netscape's playbook and posted a beta release of FrontPage 1.1 on its Web site, encouraging prospective users to download and test the new version of this Web-publishing software until the June 30 expiration date. This upgrade adds a few useful features, most notably multilevel undo and a wizard that automatically creates frame sets. Other noticeable changes fall strictly into the fit-and-finish category, intended to integrate FrontPage with the rest of the applications in the Office family. That means a new set of toolbars, a shared spell-checker, add-ins that let users jump from Office apps to FrontPage, and a usability-improved Setup program.

The biggest change, though, is FrontPage's cost, which Microsoft slashed to an expected street price of $149, with an extra $40 rebate for registered users of Office 95. Microsoft says this introductory pricing will end on New Year's Eve, 1996, but if previous upgrade policies are any guide, expect the cut-rate pricing to be extended well into 1997.

Word Internet Assistant The first beta copies of this add-in for Microsoft's Word appeared shortly after Office 95's debut last year, giving Word the ability to read and write HTML-formatted files. The tools in Word's Internet Assistant aren't fancy: The free add-in consists of a rudimentary Web viewer, a handful of filters for HTML tags and JPEG and GIF graphics, and an HTML template and export filter. By clicking a button on Word's formatting toolbar, you can toggle between Web Browse view and Edit view, although an annoying design flaw causes the insertion point to return to the top of the document each time you switch views.

Word's Internet Assistant does a capable job of converting paragraph and character styles into HTML tags. Toolbar buttons make it easy to adjust formatting or add rules, pictures, hyperlinks, and other page elements. While there's no direct support for frames or other advanced Web features, you can insert markup text directly into a document if you're fluent in raw HTML.

The utility is less capable when it comes to working with existing HTML documents. When we imported a complex Web page, for example, the Word window failed to display a table properly, although it looked just fine in the Web browser. Our conclusion: Word's Internet Assistant is a good tool for quickly moving

the Net Halfway

Online Extras: Link to all the Internet Assistants from *PC Computing*'s Web site at www.pccomputing.com. Visit our home page daily for all the latest news and reviews. You'll also find us on CompuServe/ZDNet (GO ZNT:PCC), Microsoft Network (GO PCCOMPUTING), and America Online/ZDNet (KEYWORD ZDNET).

documents from Word to the Web, but serious Web authors who need specific designs will outgrow it in no time.

Excel Internet Assistant Installing the 220K Excel add-in tacks an Internet Assistant wizard onto Excel's Tools menu. In five steps it converts an Excel range into an HTML table, preserving basic formatting but not formulas. Creating a new page from an existing worksheet is simple and straightforward—select the range and follow the wizard's prompts to add headers, footers, and other page details, then give the HTML file a name and click on Finish.

The Excel add-in offers the option to save a worksheet range as an HTML table only, but you have to manually add a placeholder tag in the HTML document where you plan to insert the table. Web authors may find it easier to use the full-page option, then paste the table portion into the destination Web document. One of Excel's greatest strengths is its ability to turn words and numbers into appealing graphs. It's a pity that Excel's Internet Assistant can't handle charts and graphs, though. That's at the top of our wish list for the next version.

PowerPoint Options Given the similarity between PowerPoint slides and HTML pages, it's not surprising that the Internet Assistant for PowerPoint easily converts formatted text and digitized images between the two formats. With a simple menu choice, it automatically translates entire presentations and adds a basic index page and easy controls for moving through the slide show.

This simple HTML filter pales in comparison with Microsoft's PowerPoint Animation Player for ActiveX. The one-click utility packages a PowerPoint presentation, complete with animation and streaming sounds, into a compressed file. With the help of a downloadable Animation Player, the presentation can be played back inside a Web browser. Ironically, this helper applet works better with Netscape's Navigator 2.0 than with Microsoft's own browser (although this summer's release of Internet Explorer 3.0 should play catch-up). If you own Office, PowerPoint is the easiest way to create multimedia Web pages. With little effort, you can fill your pages with professional-looking animation and sound.

Access and Schedule+ The most recent additions to the suite of Office Internet Assistants, for Microsoft's Access and Schedule+, have a Spartan look and feel, as though they were hurried out the door to round out the product line. Both utilities function as simple export filters, intercepting output originally formatted for a printer and converting it to simple HTML with the help of template files. For quick-and-dirty intranet publishing, they're modest time-savers.

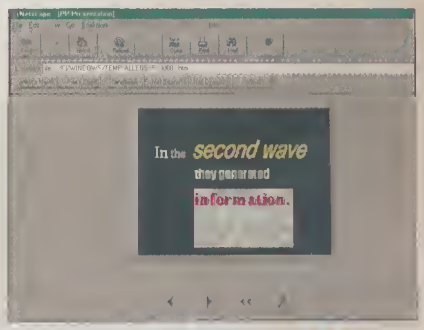
The real payoff, of course, comes when Web browsers can dynamically tap into data stored in a database. If you have access to the Internet Information Server bundled with Windows NT Server Edition, the Internet Database Connector will do the trick, but you'll need to roll up your sleeves and generate some raw SQL queries first.

Think of these Internet Assistants as placeholders, destined to disappear once a fully Internet-enabled version of Office arrives. Meanwhile, though, they'll do basic HTML duties for undemanding Web authors who don't want to crack another shrink-wrapped box. ED BOTT

FILEBOX

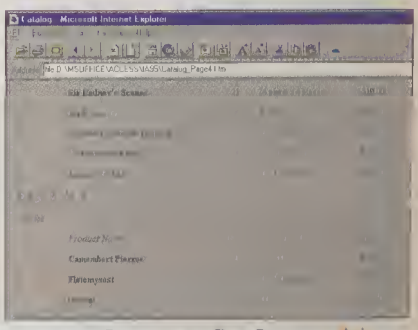
FrontPage 1.1 and Microsoft Office Internet Assistants

$149 est. street price for FrontPage 1.1 ($109 for Office users); viewers and Assistants are free
Microsoft Corp.
(800) 426-9400, (206) 936-8080
Reader Service No. 672



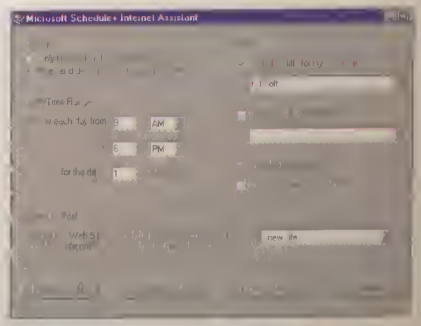
PowerPoint Assistant ☆☆☆☆

Verdict: An ideal way to browse through PowerPoint presentations on the Web or create Java-style multimedia animation.



Access Internet Assistant ☆☆

Verdict: Publishes Access reports as HTML documents. For industrial-strength Web-to-database queries, look elsewhere.



Schedule+ Internet Assistant ☆☆

Verdict: Turns Schedule+ files into simple Web pages, but doesn't allow dynamic access to the calendar for updates or changes.

Guide to the Ratings: ☆☆☆☆☆ *Excellent* ☆☆☆☆ *Good* ☆☆☆ *Acceptable* ☆☆ *Poor* ☆ *Unacceptable*

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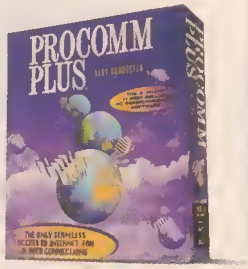

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Gateway P5-200CDR

200MHz Pentium Powerhouse

SNEAK PREVIEW

Gun an ordinary Pentium chip up to 200MHz and you'd expect Windows 95 performance to rock you back on your heels, right? In an exclusive sneak preview of Gateway's P5-200CDR—the first 200MHz Pentium PC on the market—*PC Computing*'s Labs found only marginal performance improvement over a comparably configured 166MHz Pentium.

Not So Fast Before you dismiss the P5-200CDR, make no mistake that it is the fastest Pentium on the market—and faster than more expensive 200MHz Pentium Pro systems when running Windows 95 applications. It teems with features and technologies many competing systems won't see for another year, if at all. And when fully loaded—including a 17-inch monitor—it costs $3,999.

The P5-200CDR is staking its place as the performance-value leader for running Windows 95, leaving Pentium Pros to Windows NT. Whether it can keep this leadership remains to be seen. The P5-200CDR performed only 7 percent faster than Gateway's 166MHz Pentium, the P5-166XL.

Because the P5-200CDR we tested was a preproduction unit, Gateway engineers will no doubt continue to squeeze incremental performance gains from the system before it finally ships. The configuration you order will also affect the actual performance you get.

Our test system had all the trappings of a performance leader: It came with a 512K L2 cache; 16MB of synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM) expandable to 64MB (or 128MB of EDO RAM); Matrox's 64-bit video accelerator with 2MB of WRAM (expandable to 4MB); and an eight-speed CD-ROM drive. The machine uses Triton's 32-bit VX PCI chip set, an upgrade from the chip set used on Gateway's P166.

The Heat Is On Performance aside, the P5-200CDR packs the works. As its name implies, a CD-recordable drive (from Panasonic) is standard equipment. Ensoniq's 16-bit sound card with wavetable support is included, as well as a pair of ACS-400 speakers and a subwoofer. There's also a 28.8Kbps fax modem and answering machine. With a 2.5GB EIDE hard drive and 17-inch Vivitron monitor, the Gateway costs $3,999.

This price—almost half the cost of many similarly configured Pentium Pro systems—is great news if your Windows 95 applications are already maxing out on Pentium performance.

Gateway's competition may come not from CPUs in Intel's own family, but from Cyrix. The 133MHz 6x86 chip (see "Cyrix's High-octane Bargain," page 58) stands eye-to-eye with the 200MHz Pentium under Windows 95. Early tests indicate that it runs Windows NT as fast as or faster than the Pentium processor.

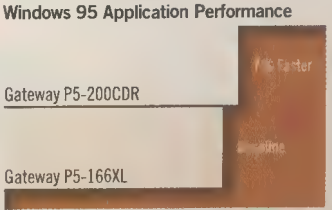
Given the P5-200CDR's low entry price, there's little room for downward movement. The real boon to business users may lie in dramatically lower costs for 166MHz Pentiums. Meanwhile, if you need the fastest Windows 95 performance you can get, the P5-200CDR is not only a winner—it's a bargain. MARTY JEROME

The First P200: Gateway's P5-200CDR is the first system to use Intel's much-awaited 200MHz Pentium chip. The real news, however, is what else you get: The $3,999 P5-200CDR includes features that many competing systems won't see for some time, including a CD-recordable drive, an eight-speed CD-ROM drive, and a 2.5GB EIDE hard drive.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Life at 200MHz

Windows 95 Application Performance



NOTE WINSTONE 96 IS A TEST THAT RUNS 15 OF THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

Fastest by a Hair: Gateway's first-generation 200MHz Pentium system is the fastest Pentium on the market—but only by a slim margin. It was slightly faster than a 166MHz Pentium when running Windows 95 applications.

FILEBOX

P5-200CDR

★★★★★

Verdict: The fastest Windows 95 system you can buy, and loaded with extras.

Pros: Chock-full of cutting-edge components—for $3,999.

Cons: Only slightly better performance than with comparable 166MHz Pentiums.

Features as Tested: 200MHz Pentium, 512K L2 cache, 16MB of SDRAM (expandable to 64MB), 2.5GB EIDE hard drive, eight-speed CD-ROM drive, CD-recordable drive, 64-bit video with 2MB of WRAM, 16-bit audio, speakers, 28.8Kbps fax modem, 17-inch monitor.

$3,999 est. street price
Gateway 2000
(800) 846-2000
Reader Service No. 673

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Cyrix's High-octane Bargain

SNEAK PREVIEW

Cyrix is so eager to put its 133MHz 6x86 CPU in your hands, it's wrapping a computer around it. Should other system makers worry when a chip manufacturer starts building PCs? In the case of Cyrix and its 6x86-P166, the answer is yes.

Cyrix Inside The 6x86-P166's performance lives up to its exultant hype. In Windows 95 application tests, the system turned in performance scores nearly identical to those of Micron's lightning-fast P166 Millennia, and it performed only a nose behind IBM's Personal Computer 750—the two fastest 166MHz Pentium-based systems we've tested.

But the 6x86's ultimate destiny may be Windows NT. Like Intel's Pentium Pro, the 6x86 CPU uses a superscalar architecture and superpipelining, with support for register renaming, multibranch prediction, and speculative execution. It's primed and revved for running 32-bit applications.

On the other hand, the Cyrix chip better emulates the *x*86 instruction set than does the Pentium Pro—the reason why the Cyrix chip runs mixed 16-bit and 32-bit Windows 95 applications faster. In other words, it gives you the best of both worlds, so if Windows NT applications are released fast enough to hasten your migration to that operating system, you won't have to mothball your Cyrix 6x86-P166.

Should you expect to pay a Pentium Pro–like premium for the Cyrix box? Not at all: Systems start at $3,149—fully loaded. This undercuts the 166MHz offerings from IBM and Micron by more than $100, according to prices listed at press time. Given its performance, the Cyrix 6x86-P166 could very well launch one of the hottest price wars to ravage the industry in years. And this, of course, is good news.

Firebrand: Chip maker Cyrix enters the systems business with a splash. Its 133MHz Cyrix 6x86-P166 costs less than competing systems with Intel's 166MHz Pentium chip, but performs on a par with IBM's Personal Computer 750 and Micron's P166 Millennia—the two fastest Pentiums to hit our labs.

Premium Parts In entering the hardscrabble systems business, Cyrix wisely chose not to rest on performance alone. The Cyrix 6x86-P166 is loaded. Its standard configuration includes a 256K L2 cache, 16MB of EDO RAM, a 2.1GB EIDE hard drive, a six-speed EIDE CD-ROM drive, Creative Labs' Sound Blaster AWE32 sound card, speakers, a 28.8Kbps fax modem and answering machine, and a 17-inch monitor.

Our $4,699 test system came with 32MB of high-speed EDO RAM, although we removed 16MB from the box for testing purposes. It also featured a 4.2GB hard drive connected to an Adaptec Fast SCSI-2 controller. As you'd expect, the 6x86-P166's SCSI hard drive outperformed the EIDE drives in both the IBM and Micron machines. On the other hand, its video performance was on a par with that of IBM's Personal Computer 750; both the PC 750 and the 6x86-P166 use Matrox's 64-bit MGA Millennium card with 2MB of WRAM.

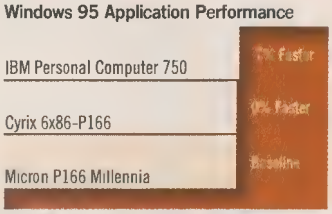
If it seems unusual for Cyrix to enter the systems business, there's a method to its madness. The company wants to help prime the marketing pump and spread the gospel about its CPU. Also, many Cyrix systems will eventually appear under other labels.

In fact, other Cyrix systems are already appearing (see "6x86 Supersystems," June, page 66). The 6x86 chip is pin-compatible with Intel CPUs so it works with existing motherboard designs.

Industry machinations aside, would you want to own a Cyrix-based PC? The price and performance of the 6x86 chip is no mirage. Even if you won't run a 32-bit operating system like Windows NT any time soon, Cyrix's 6x86-P166 is a solid value that delivers cracking performance. **MARTY JEROME**

Dueling CPUs

Windows 95 Application Performance



NOTE: WINSTONE 96 IS A TEST THAT RUNS 15 OF THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

Dead Heat: Cyrix's 133MHz challenger to Intel performs as fast as the two quickest 166MHz Pentiums to enter our Labs. Because the 6x86 chip combines the best of the Pentium and Pentium Pro designs, it runs NT with power to spare.

FILEBOX

Cyrix 6x86-P166

★★★★★

Verdict: An affordable, high-performance system primed for Windows 95—or NT.

Pros: Superb performance, and priced to move.

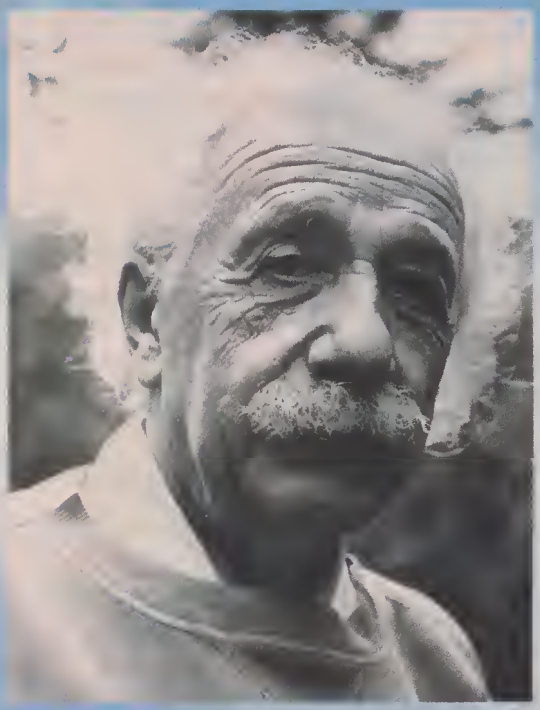
Cons: Needs more video memory for the price.

Features as Tested: 133MHz Cyrix 6x86, 256K L2 cache, 16MB of EDO RAM, 4.2GB hard drive, six-speed CD-ROM drive, Adaptec 2940U PCI Ultra SCSI-2 controller, Creative Labs' 64-bit Sound Blaster AWE32 audio, speakers, 28.8Kbps fax modem, 17-inch monitor.

$4,699 est. street price
Cyrix Systems Products
(800) 340-7501
Reader Service No. 674

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*



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Plug and Play Net Modems

You need fast and easy online access for your Windows 95 desktop, but the cost and complexities of ISDN are overwhelming. No worries—try a slightly slower solution. V.34 analog modems are easy to use, Plug and Play–compatible, and loaded with software.

We looked at three contenders: Logicode Technology's Quicktel Speakerphone Modem, Philips Electronics' PCA33IM, and U.S. Robotics' Sportster Winmodem. They're all Windows 95 Plug and Play–compatible and hit data-transfer rates of up to 33.6Kbps, but each modem addresses different needs.

Choose Logicode's Quicktel Speakerphone Modem if you're a small-office user interested in a full-duplex speakerphone. Check out Philips's PCA33IM if you need a basic, no-frills modem. But if you're looking for the best overall value, get U.S. Robotics' Sportster Winmodem.

We tested all three modems using Windows 95. While they all are V.34-compliant, only the PCA33IM reached 33.6Kbps out of the box. The Sportster Winmodem and Quicktel Speakerphone Modem can easily be upgraded by downloading the 33.6Kbps protocol software from the companies' BBS or Web site. Versions of both modems that include 33.6Kbps support out of the box should be available soon.

Software Apps If it's software you're after, look to the Sportster Winmodem, the least costly of the three—it includes 14 software applications on its USR Connections CD-ROM. The CD includes GNN, Spry's Mosaic, Netcom's NetCruiser, SurfWatch, VocalTec's Internet Phone, and Intuit's Quicken Deluxe. The Quicktel Speakerphone Modem has a less extensive software selection, including Logicode's QuickLink and EarthLink's Total Internet Access. The PCA33IM provided only three applications, although one of them is Corel's Internet Mania CD, which includes eight cool Internet utilities.

Small-office users will benefit most from the Quicktel Speakerphone Modem. It includes jacks for a speaker and a microphone, as well as two RJ-11 ports for your telephone.

Your Choice At $179, Logicode's Quicktel is the most expensive of the three but a good choice for SOHO users who want a modem that doubles as a speakerphone. Philips's $169 PCA33IM is a basic but solid modem with useful Internet utilities from Corel. The best choice, however, is the least expensive of the bunch—U.S. Robotics' Sportster Winmodem. It packs powerful software and great usability into an unbeatable $149 package. RICH SCHWERIN

Mach-Speed Modems: Looking for a Plug and Play V.34 modem that cruises up to 33.6Kbps? Check out the PCA33IM (left), the Quicktel Speakerphone Modem (front), and the Sportster Winmodem (right).

PICKS PLUG AND PLAY MODEMS

Easy-to-use, value-priced modem with lots of software	U.S. Robotics Sportster Winmodem
Basic modem with Corel's Internet Mania	Philips Electronics PCA33IM
A modem and full-duplex speakerphone in one	Logicode Quicktel Speakerphone Modem

FILEBOX

PCA33IM

★★★

Verdict: No-nonsense modem with Corel's Internet Mania CD.

Pros: Reaches a top speed of 33.6Kbps right out of the box. Corel's Internet Mania is a neat eight-pack of Internet utilities.

Cons: No frills, but costs more than U.S. Robotics' winning Speedster Winmodem.

$169 est. street price
Philips Electronics
(800) 235-7373
Reader Service No. 675

Quicktel Speakerphone Modem

★★★

Verdict: The full-duplex speakerphone is a nice nod to SOHO users.

Pros: Includes headphone and microphone jacks, and a full-duplex speakerphone.

Cons: Very little software; the most expensive of the three.

$179 est. street price
Logicode Technology
(800) 735-6442, (805) 383-2500
Reader Service No. 676

Sportster Winmodem

★★★★★

Verdict: So inexpensive and easy to use, there's no excuse for owning a slow modem.

Pros: The included USR Connections CD has more than a dozen useful online apps, including Spry's Mosaic and VocalTec's Internet Phone.

Cons: Want 33.6Kbps throughput? Download the software upgrade from U.S. Robotics' BBS.

$149 est. street price
U.S. Robotics
(800) 342-5877, (708) 676-7010
Reader Service No. 677

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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No-Compromise 133MHz Portables

Contrary to your better instincts, a 133MHz Pentium chip does not affect a notebook's innards the way a welding torch affects a ball of tin foil. In fact, new 133MHz portables from AST, Dell, and Micron show that thermal concerns are unwarranted, performance is faster than you'd expect, and there's no hit in battery life.

Thank Intel for this. The notebook version of the 133MHz Pentium chip comes wrapped in a thin, postage-stamp–size tape carrier package. This means the chip's computational core draws a flinty 2.9 volts of charge, while externally it runs at the standard 3.3V. These technologies keep it as cool as a julep-sipping tourist in Juneau.

Power for a Song The Ascentia P50 heralds AST's long overdue entry into portable multimedia. As an upgrade to the venerable Ascentia line, the P50 gains size and heft to accommodate a gorgeous 11.3-inch active-matrix display and a quad-speed CD-ROM drive, which swaps with a second lithium-ion battery or a floppy drive. At 8.9 by 11.3 by 2.5 inches and 8 pounds when dressed for travel, the P50 weighs in comparably with IBM's ThinkPad 760CD and Toshiba's Tecra 720CDT.

The P50 features a 256K L2 cache, 16MB of EDO RAM (expandable to 40MB), a 1.2GB removable hard drive, and all the bells and whistles you'd expect, including 16-bit sound with wavetable support, two (tinny) speakers, and an infrared port. Kudos to the keyboard's redesign and palm rest, which are made possible from the machine's large footprint.

For $300 less than the Ascentia P50, Micron's Millennia TransPort includes NTSC-compatible video circuitry and two multifunction drive bays that hold a second lithium-ion battery, a CD-ROM drive, a floppy drive, or a second hard drive.

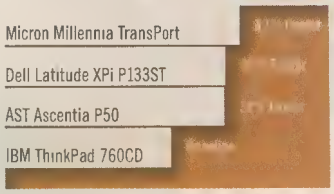
The machine even comes with both a touch pad and a pointing stick (you can use only one or the other). Its chief drawback: At 9.4 by 11.7 by 2 inches and 8.3 pounds, it's slightly bigger and heavier than the Ascentia P50. Still, it offers far more versatility.

Relentless Warrior Dell's rugged Latitude XPi resisted multimedia with a vengeance. And why not? The notebook is powerful, long-lasting, and lightweight—everything most road warriors need. The new Latitude XPi P133ST begrudgingly adds 16-bit audio (and only one speaker) to the faster CPU. The system also gains a big, bright 11.3-inch active-matrix display, which bumps its traveling weight up to about 6.5 pounds. Compared with the multimedia behemoths from AST and Micron, the Latitude XPi is a pleasure to travel with.

It features a 256K L2 cache and comes with 16MB of RAM. Hard drive options range from 540MB to 1.2GB. The Latitude XPi has an infrared port, but little else in the way of fancy features. Given its steepish $4,699 price with a 1.2GB hard drive, we were a bit disappointed. It's a solid productivity machine, but plan to leave your CD-ROMs at home. MARTY JEROME

Traveling Trio: New 133MHz Pentium portables (from left) from AST, Dell, and Micron raise the performance bar for notebooks but keep costs low.

Big Bang: Expect 133MHz Pentium portables to give you performance gains of up to 42 percent over 120MHz Pentiums like IBM's ThinkPad 760CD.



FILEBOX

Ascentia P50

☆☆☆

Verdict: Fast multimedia for about five grand.

Pros: Lots of extras.

Cons: No built-in MPEG, and it's bulky.

Features as Tested: 256K L2 cache, 16MB of EDO RAM, 1.2GB hard drive, removable quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

$4,999 est. street price
AST Research
(800) 876-4278
Reader Service No. 678

Latitude XPi P133ST

☆☆☆☆

Verdict: An expensive but proven productivity machine.

Pros: Fast, sturdy, and lightweight.

Cons: Steep price for no CD-ROM drive and only one speaker.

Features as Tested: 256K L2 cache, 16MB of RAM, 1.2GB hard drive.

$4,699 est. street price
Dell Computer Corp.
(800) 613-3355
Reader Service No. 679

Millennia TransPort

☆☆☆☆

Verdict: Put it on your shortlist for desktop replacements.

Pros: Versatility and features compete with the best—for hundreds less.

Cons: Big, bossy machine requires strong shoulders.

Features as Tested: 256K L2 cache, 16MB of EDO RAM, 1.3GB hard drive, removable quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

$4,699 est. street price
Micron Electronics
(800) 438-3343
Reader Service No. 680

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ☆☆☆☆☆ *Excellent* ☆☆☆☆ *Good* ☆☆☆ *Acceptable* ☆☆ *Poor* ☆ *Unacceptable*

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new low price of $269 (ESP)

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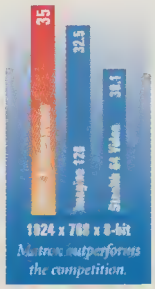

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* Estimated street / selling price for the 2MB version. Windows 95 tests conducted by Matrox Graphics Inc. using Ziff Davis Winbench 96 on an Intel Endeavor motherboard configured with Intel P5 166MHz 32MB of EDO DRAM and 512K cache at 1024 x 768 in 256 colors 72 Hz large fonts under Windows 95. The Matrox MGA Millennium and Diamond Stealth 64 Video were were configured with 2 MB of memory and the Number Nine Imagine 128 was configured with 4 MB of memory for the PCI bus using driver releases 2.30 4.02.241 and 2.08 respectively.

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Relief! Ergonomic Notebook

Your poor throbbing paws—fingers contort like bent coat hangers just to bang out a memo on your notebook keyboard. Relief is at hand. The keyboard on Samsung's new Sens 810 actually splits and angles out from the middle.

Needless to say, this sort of ergonomic design is meant for long hours of typing—it's just what you'd expect in a desktop replacement. The Sens 810's key features bear this up: a 120MHz Pentium, an 11.3-inch active-matrix display, a removable quad-speed CD-ROM drive, NTSC video circuitry, and a 28.8Kbps modem.

The notebook's resume is impeccable. But all these great pieces don't necessarily make a stunning whole. The Sens 810 is big and heavy (7.7 pounds without an AC adapter). Its innovative keyboard definitely brings relief to the wrists, but less than you might imagine. It spreads only a few inches.

Wrist Relief: An unusual ergonomic keyboard on Samsung's Sens 810 can spread apart so that your hands are at a comfortable angle when you type.

The CD-ROM drive swaps with a second lithium-ion battery, a floppy drive, or a television tuner—but not with a second hard drive, as does Micron's Millennia TransPort. The machine costs $700 less than the Millennia, however. And if you opt for the barebones Sens 810 with a 100MHz chip, less memory, a smaller drive, and a passive-matrix screen, the price starts at $2,999.

The $3,999 price tag on the Sens 810 is certainly right, and we applaud its ergonomic keyboard. But as desktop replacements go, it's worth spending a little more for a lighter portable. MARTY JEROME

FILEBOX

Sens 810

★★★

Verdict: A portly but capable CD-equipped portable.

Pros: Wrist-pleasing keyboard; low price.

Cons: It's big and heavy.

Features as Tested: 120MHz Pentium, 256K L2 cache, 16MB of EDO RAM, 1.4GB hard drive, removable quad-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with dual speakers, NTSC video circuitry, 28.8Kbps modem, infrared port.

$3,999 est. street price
Samsung Electronics America
(800) 933-4110
Reader Service No. 683

Epson PhotoPC

Point-and-Shoot Digital Snapshots

If color digital cameras were as affordable as their film counterparts, would we all buy one? Epson thinks so. Epson's PhotoPC digital camera isn't quite as cheap as the point-and-shoot film variety, but at $500 it comes close. With its lower price comes lower image quality, but if you can make the sacrifice, the PhotoPC is an affordable way to put photos onto your hard drive.

The PhotoPC looks just like a snapshot film camera and it's extremely easy to use. Just adjust the settings—resolution, flash mode, and timer—then point and shoot. Develop the photos by transferring them to your PC's hard drive via serial cable. The bundled EasyPhoto software lets you view, edit, and print the photos.

Say Cheap: Epson's PhotoPC offers the simplicity of a point-and-shoot film camera for $500.

The PhotoPC's biggest disadvantage is image quality. Its highest resolution, 640 by 480 pixels, is easily surpassed by competing digital cameras. The PhotoPC's internal memory can hold up to 16 high-resolution images and as many as 32 standard-resolution (320 by 240 pixels) shots. Even so, it's a fine little camera if you want a low-cost way to snap instant digital photos. JULIE POLITO

FILEBOX

PhotoPC

★★★

Verdict: Just point and shoot to snap photos—but image quality could be better.

Pros: Inexpensive; looks and feels like a film camera.

Cons: The low 640-by-480-pixel resolution makes images look grainy and washed-out.

Competition: Kodak's DC50 costs more, but offers better images and PC Card storage.

$500 est. street price
Epson
(800) 289-3776

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLO TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

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—Aaron Goldberg, *Computer Intelligence InfoCorp*

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—*Jim Seymour, PC Magazine*

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—Robin Raskin, *FamilyPC Magazine*

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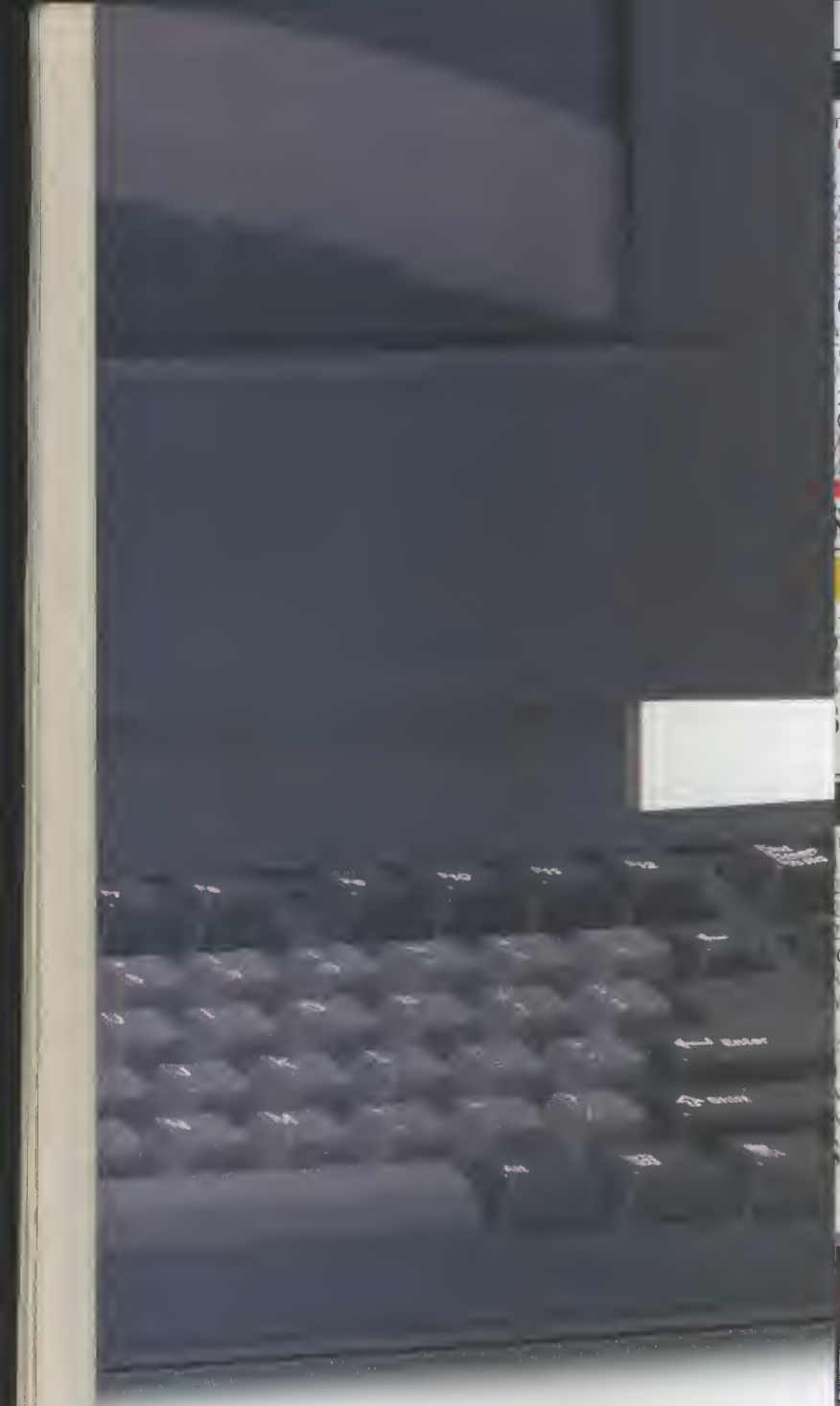

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Graphics Accelerator
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ivitron17 .26dp Monitor
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P5-166 FAMILY PC

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- 16MB EDO DRAM
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 2.5GB 11ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 2MB DRAM, 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
- 8X CD-ROM Drive/3.5" Diskette Drive
- 16-Bit Gateway Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-40 Speakers
- TelePath 28.8 Fax/Modem
- Vivitron™17 .26dp Monitor (15.9" viewable)
- 7-Bay Mini Tower Case
- 104+ Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
- MS Windows 95
- Generations II Software Collection

$2699

P5-200XL

- Intel 200MHz Pentium Processor
- 16MB Synchronous DRAM
- 512K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 2.5GB 11ms EIDE Hard Drive
- Matrox® 2MB WRAM Graphics Accelerator
- CD-Recordable w/ SCSI Controller
- 8X CD-ROM Drive/3.5" Diskette Drive
- 16-Bit Ensoniq® Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec ACS-400 w/ ACS 250 Speaker System
- TelePath 28.8 Fax/Modem
- Vivitron17 .26dp Monitor (15.9" viewable)
- 12-Bay Tower Case
- 104+ Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
- MS Windows 95
- MS Office 95, Professional Edition*
- Generations II Software Collection

$3899

Generations II SOFTWARE COLLECTION

- Microsoft Encarta® 96 ■ MS Cinem... '96 ■ MS Julia Child: Home Cooking with Master Chefs ■ MS Bob,™ for Ga... 2000 ■ MS Works 95 ■ MS Publisher... ■ MS Money 4.0 ■ MS Golf 2.0 ■ M... Music Central™ 96 ■ MS CD Sampler ■ MS Entertainment Packs 1-4 (31 fu... games!) ■ Ca$h Graf Home Office Plu... ■ Mayo Clinic® Family Health Book ■ Mediamatics Arcade™ MPEG Player ■ The Masters®: Interactive Journey Through Its 60-Year History, for MPE...

The P5-200XL and D5-200 PCs have n... been approved by the Federal Communi... tions Commission. These devices are n... and may not be, offered for sale or lease... sold or leased until the approval of the ... has been obtained.

Destination™ Big Screen PCs *(Currently available for sale only in the U.S.)*

D5-120

■ P5-120 Family PC config above, excluding speakers, w/ Destination Big Screen PC upgrade (details next page) replacing standard corresponding components and software

$3499

D5-166

■ P5-166 Family PC config above, excluding speakers, w/ Destination Big Screen PC upgrade (details next page) replacing standard corresponding components and software

$3999

D5-200

■ P5-200XL System config above, excluding speakers, w/ Destination Big Screen PC upgrade (details next page) replacing standard corresponding components and software

$4899

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Professional Systems

P5-100

- Intel 100MHz Pentium Processor
- 16MB EDO DRAM
- 850MB 10ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 1MB DRAM, 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
- 8X CD-ROM Drive/3.5" Diskette Drive
- Vivitron15 .26dp Monitor (13.9" viewable)
- 7-Bay Mini Tower Case
- 104+ Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
- MS Windows 95
- MS Office 95, Professional Edition*

$1649 Business Lease† $61/mo.

P5-133

- Intel 133MHz Pentium Processor
- 16MB EDO DRAM
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 1.6GB 9ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 2MB DRAM, 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
- 8X CD-ROM Drive/3.5" Diskette Drive
- Vivitron15 .26dp Monitor (13.9" viewable)
- 7-Bay Mini Tower Case
- 104+ Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
- MS Windows 95
- MS Office 95, Professional Edition*

$1899 Business Lease† $70/mo.

P5-166

- Intel 166MHz Pentium Pocessor
- 16MB EDO DRAM
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 2.5GB 11ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 2MB DRAM, 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
- 8X CD-ROM Drive/3.5" Diskette Drive
- Vivitron17 .26dp Monitor (15.9" viewable)
- 7-Bay Mini Tower Case
- 104+ Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
- MS Windows 95
- MS Office 95, Professional Edition*

$2499 Business Lease† $92/mo.

G6-200

- Intel 200MHz Pentium Pro Process...
- 16MB DRAM
- 2.5GB 11ms EIDE Hard Drive
- Matrox 2MB WRAM Graphics Accelerator
- 8X CD-ROM Drive/3.5" Diskette...
- Vivitron17 .26dp Monitor (15.9" viewable)
- 12-Bay Tower Case
- 104+ Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
- MS Windows NT® Workstation 3.5... or MS Windows 95
- MS Office 95, Professional Edition*

$3299 Business Lease† $121/mo.

Gateway 2000® Solo™ Portable PCs

S5-100XL

- 10.4" Active Matrix SVGA Display
- Intel 100MHz Pentium Processor
- 8MB RAM (expandable to 40MB)
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 540MB Hard Drive
- Modular 4X CD-ROM Drive
- Modular 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Integrated 16-Bit Stereo Sound
- 1MB Video RAM
- Lithium Ion Battery & AC Pack
- 86-key MS Windows 95 Keyboard
- MS Windows 95
- MS Works 95
- Carrying Case

$2899 Business Lease† $107/mo.

S5-133XL BEST BUY

- 11.3" Active Matrix SVGA Display
- Intel 133MHz Pentium Processor
- 40MB RAM
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 1.2GB Hard Drive
- Modular 4X CD-ROM Drive
- Modular 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Integrated 16-Bit Stereo Sound
- 28.8 PCMCIA Fax/Modem
- 1MB Video RAM
- Lithium Ion Battery & AC Pack
- 86-key MS Windows 95 Keyboard
- MS Windows 95
- MS Office 95, Professional Edition
- Carrying Case

$5599 Business Lease† $200/mo.

All desktop systems standard with Gateway... Gold™ Service & Support, which includes 3-... limited warranty. All portables standard wi... year limited warranty. Call or write for a fr... copy.

The Gateway Solo line starts at 5.4 lbs. Wei... includes 8MB RAM, 810MB hard drive, Lith... Ion battery & option bay cover.

** MS Office 95, Professional Edition include... Word, Excel, PowerPoint® presentation gra... program, Schedule+, Access database and Bookshelf® '95.*

†Leasing arranged by independent leasing companies to qualified commercial custome... Lease payments based on 36-month term. L... terms subject to change without notice or obligation.

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International FaxBack Access 605-232-2561 • Component Add-On Sales 800-846-2080 • Sales Hours: 7am-10pm Weekdays, 9am-4pm Saturdays (CDT)

Destination™ Big Screen PCs

In the market for a multimedia PC? Consider upgrading to a Big Screen PC. Just like all our computers, the Destination Big Screen PC is built to order, with your choice of Pentium processor, RAM, hard drive, CD-ROM drive, diskette drive, and fax/modem.

The following Destination components replace the corresponding standard components of the Family PC and XL systems:

- **Video Card:** Destination 2MB VRAM Graphics Accelerator w/ Cable-Ready TV Tuner
- **Sound Card:** 16-Bit Hi-Fi Wavetable Audio Card
- **Monitor:** Destination 31" VGA Monitor
- **Case:** 7-Bay Charcoal-Colored PC Case
- **Keyboard:** Wireless Keyboard with Integrated EZ Pad™ Pointing Device
- **Mouse:** Field Mouse™ Remote with Integrated Trackball
- **Software:** Destination Software Collection
  (Call about this package of software specially selected for the Destination Big Screen PC's extraordinary multimedia capabilities.)
- **Speakers:** Not included. The Destination Big Screen PC has been designed for easy integration with your existing stereo system. Need a high-quality sound system? See speaker option at right.

Option

- **harman/kardon High-Fidelity Sound System**

Seven-piece Dolby® Surround Sound Pro Logic speaker system including AVR-10 audio/video receiver with remote, subwoofer, center channel, and four satellites for the ultimate multimedia audio experience. **$699**
(Special price available at time of system purchase only.)

Bigger-Than-Life Extras!

Multimedia/Communication

- CD-Recordable **$599**
  4X read/2X write recordable CD drive with SCSI Controller, Corel® CD Creator 2 32-bit software and three media disks.
- Altec™ Lansing ACS-250 Subwoofer **$75**
  (upgrade from PCs that include Altec ACS-40 speakers)
- Altec ACS-400 Speaker System w/ ACS-250 Subwoofer **$120**
  (upgrade from PCs that include Altec ACS-40 speakers)

Networking

3Com® Ethernet Adapters

- 16-Bit Triple Media Card with BNC, AUI and RJ-45 Connectors **$99**
- 16-Bit Card with only RJ-45 Connector **$79**

Gateway Solo™ Portable Options

- 2GB Hard Drive **$300**
  (upgrade from 1.2GB hard drive)
- Docking Bar **$150**
- 28.8 PCMCIA Fax/Modem **$229**

Printers

- Epson® Stylus™ Color IIs Ink Jet Printer **$219** *less $30 mfr. rebate*
- Hewlett®-Packard DeskJet 600C Ink Jet Printer **$259**
- Epson Stylus Color II Ink Jet Printer **$299** *less $30 mfr. rebate*
- Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5L Printer **$479**
- Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5P Printer **$849**

Service & Support

Gateway Gold™ Premium

- Extended Three-Year On-Site Agreement* for Desktop Systems
- Priority 800 Number For Access to Technical Experts

With system purchase **$99** / Within current on-site service agreement **$129**

(Ask about Gateway Gold Premium upgrade for the Destination Big Screen PC.)

**On-site service for desktop and tower systems is available to most U.S. and Canadian locations after determination by a Gateway tech that you need it. On-site service is provided by PC Technology Services Inc. Write or call for a free copy of our on-site service agreement.*

Software

- Kid's BackPack™ III

Includes School House Rock!™: Grammar Rock™; Sesame Street: Get Set to Learn®; Math Blaster 2®: Secret of the Lost City; Imo & The King™; Putt-Putt® Goes To The Moon™; and Gateway cow-spotted backpack. **$59**

- Finance Pack *(U.S. Shipment Only)*

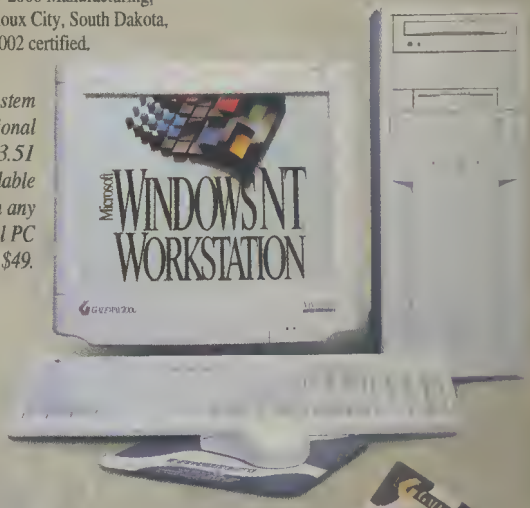
Includes Quicken Deluxe 5, Quicken Financial Planner,™ Quicken Family Lawyer,™ and Quicken Parents' Guide To Money.™ **$69**

Call the Gateway 2000 component add-ons division at 800-846-2080 for our complete line of extras for Gateway customers. Sales Hours: 7am-10pm Weekdays (CDT).

GSA Schedule # GS-00K-94-AGS-5150-PS01

Gateway 2000 Manufacturing, North Sioux City, South Dakota, is ISO 9002 certified.

P5-166 Professional System shown with optional Microsoft® Windows NT® 3.51 operating system, available pre-installed on any Gateway professional PC for only $49.



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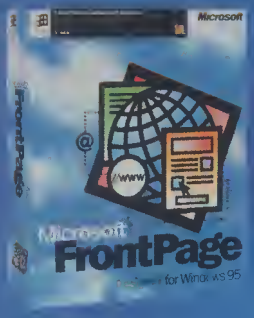
Introducing Microsoft FrontPage. The easy and fast way to create and manage your Web site.



no

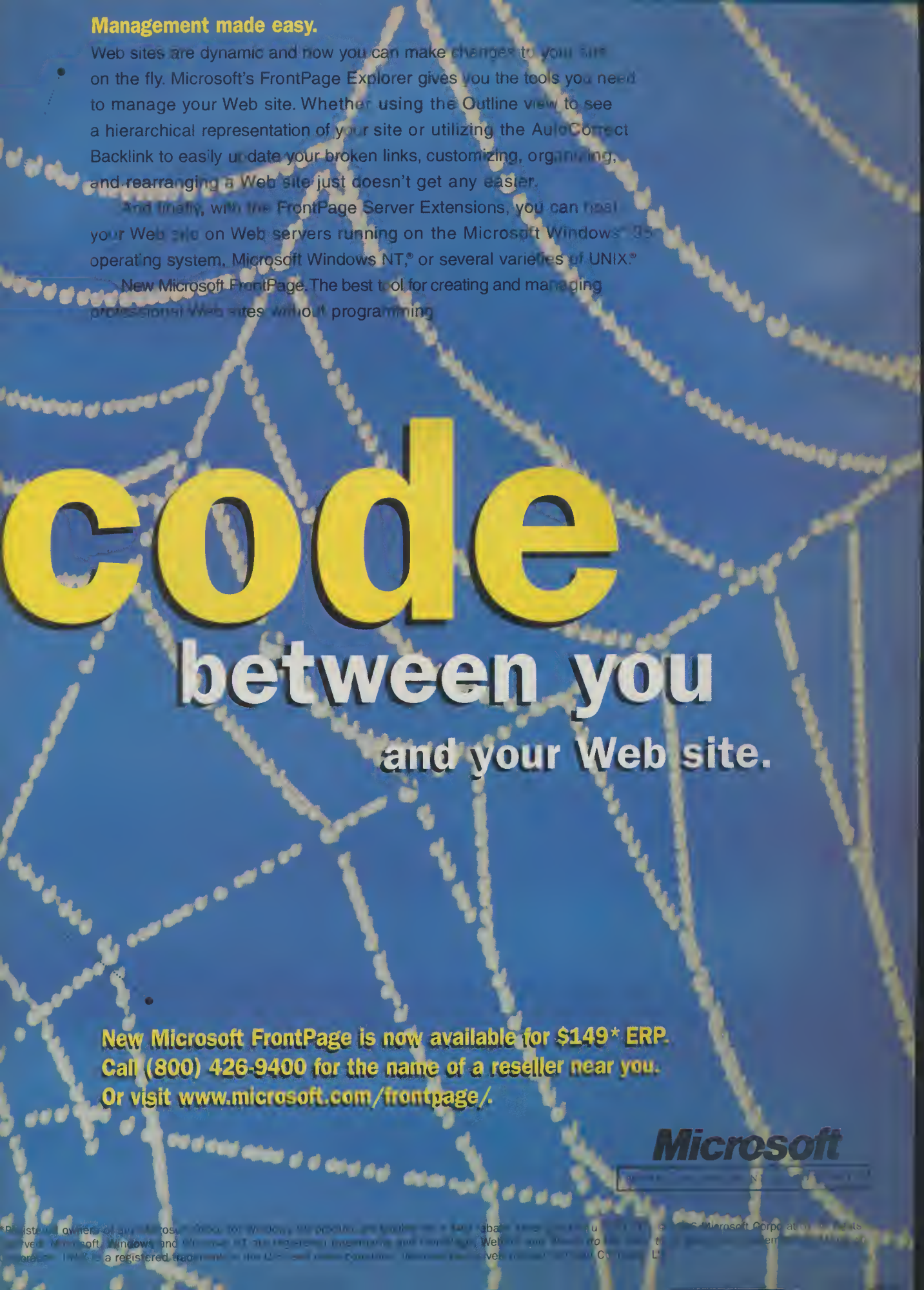
Start

If you can click, drag, and drop, you can do it.

Creating your Web site used to be difficult and time-consuming. But that's a thing of the past. Now Microsoft FrontPage™ takes the mystery out of Web site [illegible] and management. With easy-to-use functions [illegible] floating tables and frames as easy as [illegible] no code will stand in the way of [illegible] your Web site. And because the FrontPage Web [illegible] and management tool incorporates the [illegible] of Microsoft Office for Windows 95, it [illegible] the tools and programs you already know.

Create exciting Web sites.

Microsoft FrontPage gets you up and running fast. With the help of Wizards and templates, you can create [illegible] pages of Web sites for an intranet or [illegible]. And with WebBot™ components you can add great features like forms, full-text searches and other interactive functions so your site will really come to life.


Management made easy.
Web sites are dynamic and now you can make changes to your site on the fly. Microsoft's FrontPage Explorer gives you the tools you need to manage your Web site. Whether using the Outline view to see a hierarchical representation of your site or utilizing the AutoCorrect Backlink to easily update your broken links, customizing, organizing, and rearranging a Web site just doesn't get any easier.
And finally, with the FrontPage Server Extensions, you can host your Web site on Web servers running on the Microsoft Windows 95 operating system, Microsoft Windows NT,® or several varieties of UNIX.®
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*Estimated retail price in the U.S. Actual price may vary. See dealer for details on $50 rebate in U.S. good from May 1, [illegible] ©1996 [illegible], M.D. [illegible], Ltd. They're your ideas. We just help. T.M. Oki America, Inc. Adobe, PostScript T.M. Adobe Systems, Inc. Windows Reg. T.M. [illegible]

Intuit Investor Insight

Master Your Investments

If you've stashed some of your eggs in the stock market but don't have the time to sit on them 40 hours a week, you're not alone. Intuit's Investor Insight is a one-stop source of information and analysis on stocks and mutual funds that's perfect for anyone too busy to make managing investments a full-time job. While the online investment packages Charles Schwab's StreetSmart 2.0 and Reuters' Money Network cost about the same per month, neither can match Investor Insight's ease of use.

Online Updates Investor Insight offers the same mix of online financial news, company research, and pricing information first introduced in September 1995 as one of Quicken 5's electronic services. But this release is for those who don't use Quicken for portfolio management—users of Microsoft's Money, for example.

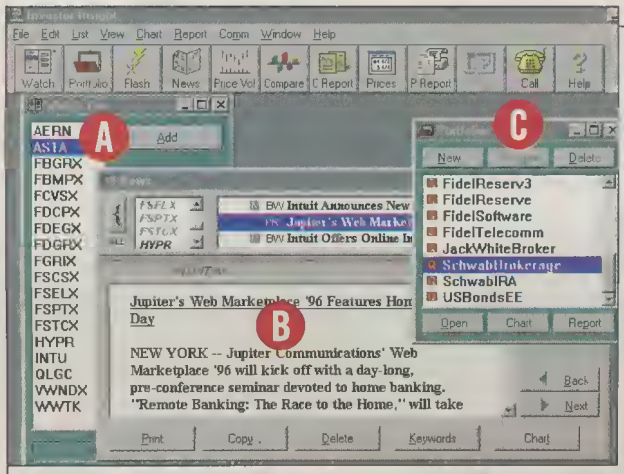
Connecting to the service is very similar to using an online service. Intuit has several leased lines across the country, so most people can dial in with a local call. Your first connection downloads five years' worth of price quotes, 90 days' worth of news, and data for all your portfolios. You can then set Investor Insight's timer to update the whole batch just before you wake up, so it'll be as fresh as your first cup of coffee.

Intuit makes its money off monthly service fees, as do America Online and CompuServe (which offer similar investment information at similar prices). Ditto for Charles Schwab's StreetSmart 2.0 and Reuters' Money Network, which give you the advantages of trading online as well as fetching investment information. Investor Insight's advantages relate more to the "how" than the "what."

Online services make you jump between different forums while the clock is ticking, and Charles Schwab and Reuters lock you into their own less-usable portfolio managers. By contrast, Investor Insight gives you a set of easy-to-navigate windows, the centerpiece of which is the Watch List of your stocks and mutual funds. And your portfolios can be merely a list of shares and prices, or include cash gains, internal rate of return, and so on.

Buy Low, Sell High Investor Insight also offers some very good analytical tools that are, like most Intuit products, highly customizable. Nearly a dozen charts let you compare the stock prices of one company to those of another, to popular market indexes, or to custom indexes you create. These can be as simple or as complex as you want them to be.

While Investor Insight's online services and pricing are standard, it offers better usability and is more convenient than its competitors. If you have time to watch only one basket, this is the best place to put all your eggs. MIKE HOGAN



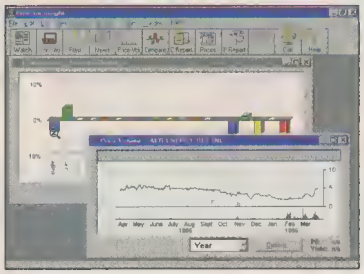
Stock Market Surfing: Intuit's Investor Insight makes tracking your investments easy. Although you can't trade stocks online, you'll find lots of valuable data, from stock quotes to market analysis.

A. Start by building your **Watch List** of stocks.

B. Click on the newspaper icon and **read news** about your stock.

C. Include any number of **portfolios linked** to your investment accounts.

Trade Secrets: Click on the magnifying glass in a portfolio earnings chart to drill down to a price-volume chart, which holds other hyperlinks.



FILEBOX

Investor Insight

★★★★

Verdict: The easiest way to monitor your investments short of hiring a full-time broker.

Pros: Extremely easy to use; offers fresh and insightful information.

Cons: No online trading, only monitoring; for the same price, other packages let you buy and sell online.

Competition: Charles Schwab's StreetSmart 2.0 and Reuters' Money Network cost about the same per month and let you trade stocks, but they aren't as easy to use. America Online, CompuServe, Dow Jones's Personal Journal, and Microsoft Network all offer investment areas at a lower price, but don't make it as easy to customize information.

System Requirements: Windows 3.1, 486 CPU, 8MB of RAM, 10MB of hard disk space.

Free software; $9.95 per month for 10 securities, $1 per month for each additional security, $19.95 per month for up to 50 extra; $4.95 per Standard & Poor's investment research report
Intuit
(800) 624-8742, (708) 585-8500
Reader Service No. 691

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Directory Assistance on Disc

Scenario 1: You've settled down to dinner when the phone rings. A tombstone salesman wants to know if you've thought about your "final message." Scenario 2: To get your new store off the ground, you have to target and mail advertising to people who live in the store's vicinity.

If you've been through Scenario 1, phone directories on CD are the devil's spawn, giving companies easy access to your personal information. However, if you identify with Scenario 2, CD collections are PC manna, providing salvation for small businesses that have a corporate-size appetite for information. These programs pack all the phone books in the United States and Canada—white pages and yellow pages—onto a handful of CD-ROMs.

Whatever your motives for buying a general digital directory, you'll find what you need in one of the three main players—130 Million Listings from American Business Information, PhoneDisc PowerFinder 96 from Digital Directory Assistance, and Select Phone Deluxe 1996 from Pro CD.

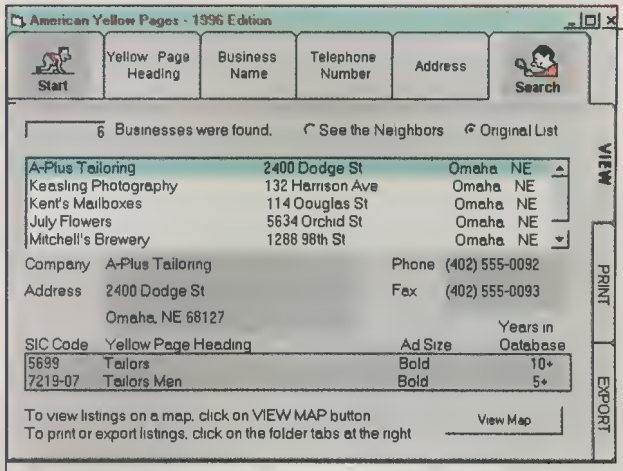
We tested each one for accuracy and ease of use. While none is foolproof, they can quickly pay for themselves if you need an easy way to look up phone numbers.

Loads of Listings 130 Million Listings, the flagship CD collection from American Business Information, has the most listings of the three CDs, and provides more business information than the others. 130 Million Listings can also locate listings geographically on a map. It isn't always the most accurate, however. It was correct less than half the time when we deliberately searched for out-of-date listings.

PhoneDisc PowerFinder 96 has 112 million listings that cover both residences and businesses. It was right seven out of ten times in our tests, and was exceptionally fast. You can limit your searches by state, city, zip code, and area code. PhoneDisc PowerFinder doesn't provide the same in-depth data as 130 Million Listings, but it juggles different combinations of businesses and households, and is good for quick searches.

Number, Please Select Phone Deluxe 1996 is the winner for accuracy; it was right eight out of ten times in our tests. The six-CD set has the best interface, and it's almost as fast as PowerFinder. Select Phone's search results are displayed in labeled columns, making it easy to analyze the information. A feature called SmartFind extends search criteria, and ListMagic helps you narrow your listings. Select Phone lacks the depth of 130 Million Listings, but its mapping feature is easier to use.

Each title has strengths and weaknesses. 130 Million Listings offers the best collection of business listings but comes up short on accuracy. PhoneDisc is the best choice for fast info. And the best general-purpose digital phone book is Select Phone Deluxe 1996. Whatever your needs, try one and let your PC do the walking. **RON WHITE**



Quick Call: Save time and cut your phone costs to directory assistance with 130 Million Listings, PhoneDisc PowerFinder, and Select Phone Deluxe—digital phone directories on CD. ABI's 130 Million Listings (above) offers the most business information and a familiar Windows 95 interface.

PICKS CD PHONE DIRECTORIES

Not the most accurate, but offers the most information	ABI 130 Million Listings
Lightning-fast access for basic information	Digital Directory Assistance PhoneDisc PowerFinder 96
The best all-around for ease of use and accuracy	Pro CD Select Phone Deluxe 1996

FILEBOX

130 Million Listings

★★★★

Verdict: The most in-depth information around.

Pros: Includes detailed business data.

Cons: Slow going, old listings.

$90 est. street price
American Business Information
(800) 555-5999, (402) 593-4565
Reader Service No. 692

PhoneDisc PowerFinder 96

★★★★

Verdict: Fast and simple phone listings.

Pros: Smart, fast searching.

Cons: Basic listings only.

$100 est. street price
Digital Directory Assistance
(800) 284-8353, (301) 657-8548
Reader Service No. 693

Select Phone Deluxe 1996

★★★★

Verdict: Best overall for basic content and usability.

Pros: The easiest to use, and the best display of listings.

Cons: Basic listings only.

$170 est. street price
Pro CD
(800) 992-3766
Reader Service No. 694

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

The smallest, lightest, brightest multimedia projector is now an even brighter choice.

Turn your bright ideas into brilliance. Introducing the Epson ELP-3300, the world's smallest, lightest and brightest multimedia projector. Now you can make brilliant presentations anytime and anywhere without turning off the lights.

The world leader in high performance, portable projectors. The revolutionary ELP-3300 shines 75% brighter than ordinary single-LCD projectors, is about the size of a briefcase and weighs less than 17 pounds. Epson's breakthrough prism technology and three separate Poly-Silicon LCD's generate incredible detail, visibly better brightness (350 lumens) and superior color reproduction.

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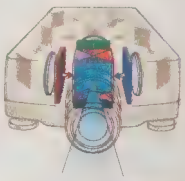
MACWORLD AWARD 1995 FINALIST



Epson's Prism Technology, and 3 advanced LCD's (not just 1) produce the brightest, high-quality images.

Weighs under 17 pounds

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Extra Care Road Service Program is free while under Epson's one-year limited warranty. Editors choice nomination given to ELP-3000, the first in the line of Epson projectors with 3 LCD, Prism Technology. © 1996 Epson America, Inc.

OCR, Easier Than Ever

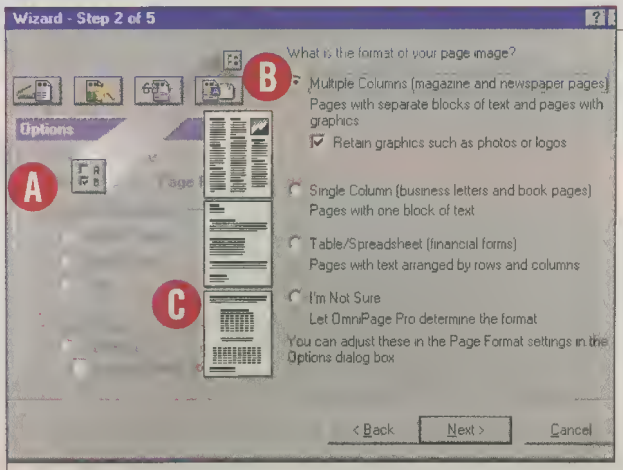
SNEAK PREVIEW

Optical character recognition is a well-understood science, if still slightly imperfect. The biggest difference among today's OCR programs is how scanned documents are processed and managed, rather than how accurately they're recognized. That's especially true when you compare two of the best OCR programs, Caere's OmniPage Pro 7.0 for Windows 95 and Xerox's TextBridge Pro 96.

Fundamentally, both are effective OCR programs with accuracy percentages that hover in the high nineties and are often near-perfect with computer-printed or typewritten documents. Each can handle complex documents, including pages with text columns and pictures, and both preserve such formatting in the process. Where they differ is in the ease with which they approach the OCR task, and in the postscan perks they offer.

Easy Readers OmniPage Pro 7.0 has an edge in ease of use. OmniPage's new OCR wizard easily guides you through the OCR process. This is OCR that anyone can use. TextBridge Pro 96 still has a bare-bones toolbar and employs cryptic menu choices like Start/Continue Processing. OmniPage is also compatible with Microsoft's Office, hence its familiar look and feel.

The two programs are more evenly matched when it comes to standard features. Both support OLE 2.0, and each can be invoked from Microsoft's Word, Corel's WordPerfect, and other applications. Both can save scanned documents in popular formats including HTML, thus letting you get documents onto a Web site faster and more easily. TextBridge includes a copy of SoftQuad's HotMetal Light HTML editor for cleaning up Web-bound documents.

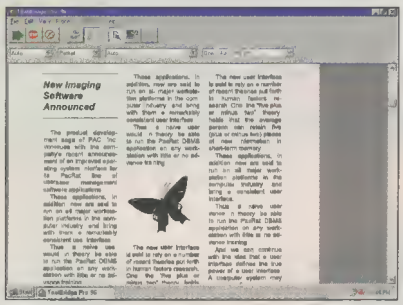


Wizard of OCR: OmniPage Pro's new OCR wizard makes it easy to scan, recognize, and save documents by walking you through all the choices you need to make a successful scan.

A. The OCR wizard shows you the correct **toolbar button** for each action, so you can do it yourself next time.

B. Each option includes **detailed descriptions** to help you choose.

C. Still confused? The wizard also gives **thumbnails** of each page type.



Fine Formatting: TextBridge Pro is especially good at recognizing documents with complex, image-filled layouts.

Scanning on Schedule OmniPage's easy-to-use OCR scheduling option is nice if you have big document-scanning jobs. TextBridge can defer the OCR conversion process for documents already scanned; but OmniPage's scheduler lets you queue up yet-to-be-scanned hard copy or scanned electronic files, and start the scanning and conversion process at a preset time. OmniPage also streamlines the OCR process with faxes by meshing seamlessly with Microsoft's Exchange to quickly convert received faxes into editable text.

Both programs are better at the basics than their previous versions. Scanning speed is faster in both products. Accuracy is still excellent with clean pages, and solid with scanned articles and legible faxes. OmniPage is a little faster and TextBridge a bit more accurate, but neither holds a consistent or significant advantage. TextBridge is especially good at reading tables and irregular text formatting like captions and headers.

At a street price of about $260, TextBridge holds a big edge over OmniPage, which will set you back $499. If you're upgrading either one from a previous version, however, they both cost $129. In the end, either OCR program will get the job done, but the simplicity and automated features of Caere's OmniPage Pro 7.0 make it the one to pick if you don't mind the high price. CHRIS O'MALLEY

FILEBOX

OmniPage Pro 7.0 for Windows 95

★★★★

Verdict: Easy OCR, with a host of automated features.

Pros: OCR wizard simplicity; scheduling options.

Cons: Carries a high price tag.

System Requirements: Windows 95, 8MB of RAM, 15MB of hard disk space, scanner.

$499 est. street price, $129 for upgrade from any Caere product
Caere Corp.
(800) 535-7226
Reader Service No. 695

TextBridge Pro 96

★★★½

Verdict: Less refined than OmniPage, but includes powerful recognition features.

Pros: Highly accurate; excels at reading complex documents.

Cons: Cryptic toolbar.

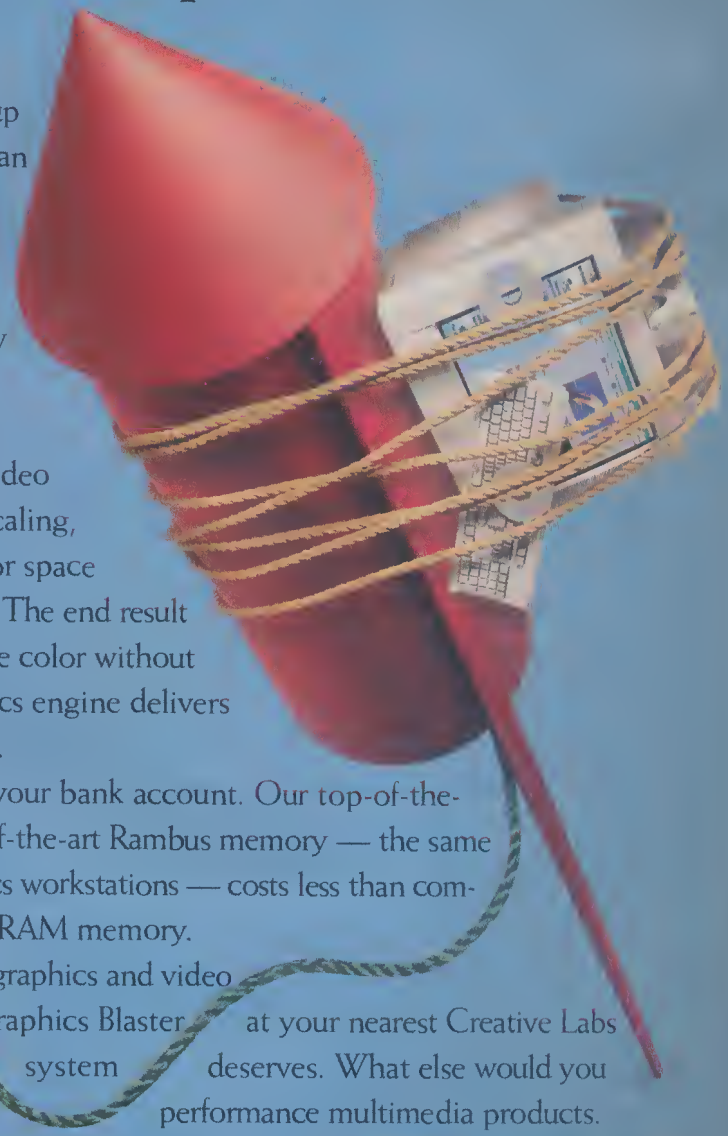
System Requirements: Windows 3.1, 95, or NT; 8MB of RAM; 10MB of hard disk space; scanner.

$260 est. street price, $129 for upgrade
Xerox Corp.
(800) 248-6550, ext. 3
Reader Service No. 696

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

There are other ways to accelerate your multimedia, but may we suggest our new Graphics Blaster.

Multimedia can be a frustrating thing. Even on today's hottest systems, video playback can end up looking like a postage stamp with fewer colors than you get from a box of crayons. Or, when you zoom it to full screen, it looks like a slide show instead of a smoothly running movie. Before you resort to extremes, you might want to try our new Graphics Blaster™ multimedia accelerator from Creative Labs.



Graphics Blaster features high-tech video acceleration functions like asymptotic scaling, horizontal and vertical filtering and color space conversion built right into the hardware. The end result is video that glides onto the screen in dazzling true color without dropping frames. And the powerful 64-bit graphics engine delivers Windows® performance that will blow you away.

Best of all, Graphics Blaster won't blow away your bank account. Our top-of-the-line Graphics Blaster MA302 with 2MB of state-of-the-art Rambus memory — the same high performance memory used on Silicon Graphics workstations — costs less than comparable boards using yesterday's tired VRAM memory.

So when you're ready to boost your graphics and video performance to the stratosphere, pick up a Graphics Blaster at your nearest Creative Labs dealer. It's got the multimedia muscle your system deserves. What else would you expect from Creative Labs, the leader in high-performance multimedia products.

Introducing Graphics Blaster Multimedia Accelerators

	64-bit Graphics Engine	16.7 Million Colors	Maximum Resolution	Refresh Rate	Plug and Play Monitor	Full-Screen Video Playback
Typical Graphics Accelerator	64 bit		1280 x 1024	120Hz		
Graphics Blaster MA302 Multimedia Accelerator	64 bit		1600 x 1200	150Hz		

CREATIVE

CREATIVE LABS, INC.

http://www.creativelabs.com

information call our Faxback Service at 405 372 5227 or Product Information at 800-998 5227 x 136 © 1996 Creative Technology Ltd. All rights reserved. Graphics Blaster is a trademark of Creative Technology Ltd. Creative Technology Ltd. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. All other brand or product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. Specifications subject to change without notice.

Circle 112 on reader service card.

Push-button Database Programming

You shouldn't have to learn a programming language just to build a basic database. But even popular, easy-to-use database programs such as Claris's FileMaker and Microsoft's Access require some scripting to create anything out of the ordinary. Alpha Software's new Alpha Five for Windows 95 makes creating databases so easy you can't script even if you want to.

The program lets you do everything through menus, tabbed dialog boxes, and right mouse-clicks. There are plenty of templates included. For beginners this program is ideal.

Alpha Five's interface mimics Windows 95's Explorer and separates the various components of a database into different directories: tables, templates, reports, and so on. For constructing simple databases, this is the easiest package we've seen. However, there are some trade-offs to Alpha Five's scriptless approach. There's always a lot to click through. While some tasks, like creating a checkbox, are easy to find, other commands are not. And the help files aren't always clear on where to find those commands.

Click, Click, Sort: Alpha Five makes creating custom databases a matter of pushing the right buttons.

Behind all this button pushing there's a powerful engine that creates fully relational databases, with quick filters and sorting features. Not bad for $50. If you're nervous about a scriptless database, wait for the professional version of Alpha Five. But for average database creation, like an address book or product inventory, push-button power should be enough. **JACK LYON**

FILEBOX

Alpha Five for Windows 95

★★★★

Verdict: Simple, scriptless database creation.

Pros: Easy to build fairly complex databases.

Cons: Finding the right buttons could be easier.

System Requirements: Windows 95, 486 CPU, 8MB of RAM, at least 12MB of hard disk space.

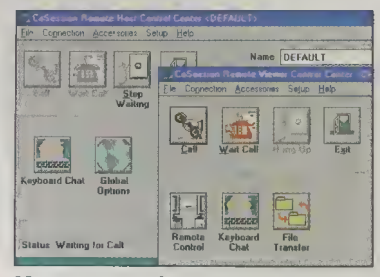
$50 est. street price
Alpha Software Corp.
(800) 451-1018, (617) 229-2924
Reader Service No. 697

Artisoft InSync CoSession Remote 7.0

Reach Your Desktop from Afar

If you're shuttling disks from your office to home and back again, you should consider remote computing. Like Traveling Software's LapLink and Symantec's pcAnywhere, Artisoft InSync's CoSession Remote 7.0 lets you access a distant PC—and the network it's running on—from anywhere. And at only $59, CoSession Remote is less than half the price of its competitors.

Feature for feature, CoSession Remote is very similar to the competition, although it can't handle multiple connections. Once connected, transferring files from one PC to another is as simple as dragging and dropping in familiar, hierarchical windows. All transferring can be done in the background. For the security-conscious, CoSession includes basic password protection and transfer rights. It also provides a dial-back option, which lets your host PC at the office receive a call, disconnect, and call back—a handy way to avoid local or long-distance toll charges at home.



Keys to the Office: CoSession Remote 7.0 delivers full remote access to your office computer.

If you're looking to find a bargain remote-computing solution for your individual use only, CoSession Remote 7.0 is a terrific choice—especially when compared with the competitors, which cost twice as much. **RICH SCHWERIN**

FILEBOX

CoSession Remote 7.0

★★★★

Verdict: Easy remote computing at a bargain price. A great way to transfer files.

Pros: Simple setup; dial-back option helps keep long-distance bills down; works with Windows 3.1 and Windows 95.

Cons: Doesn't support multiple, simultaneous connections; no wireless support.

$59 est. street price
Artisoft InSync
(800) 846-9726
Reader Service No. 698

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

You'll have to search the galaxy to find a more realistic multimedia experience than this.

There's not much doubt that intelligent life forms exist somewhere else in the universe. The question is: Are their multimedia systems as advanced as ours?

The new **Sound Blaster 8x Kits** make your current multimedia system seem like something out of a history book. They give you a brain-blistering 8x CD-ROM drive that makes all your CD-ROM software perform at warp speed. The 8x drive uses an IDE interface and is compatible with multiple standards including Photo CD and CD EXTRA.

You also get one of the hottest sound cards on the planet — the Sound Blaster 32 PnP. It delivers the brilliant realism of **32-note polyphony** and **wave-table synthesis**, adding new detail and richness to both sound effects and music. It also features Creative's **3D Stereo Enhancement Technology** to make your whole system sound better.

Since the search for bargains is universal, a fat collection of the hottest new games and software comes with every kit. Sound Blaster Performance 8x is designed for the multimedia fanatic. Sound Blaster Discovery CD 8x takes the whole family to the cutting edge. Both come with a pair of Sound Blaster speakers powerful enough to attract low-flying spacecraft. If you're looking for the ultimate CD-ROM upgrade, Blaster CD 8x gives you mach speed and great software to boot.

Great software value in every kit!

So the next time you see aliens from your window, just point them to the nearest Creative Labs dealer. Think of it as a way to promote harmony in the universe.

Introducing Sound Blaster 8x Multimedia Upgrade Kits

	CD-ROM	Speakers	Sound Card					
	CD-ROM Drive	Stereo Speakers	Play Audio CDs and Games	Record 16-bit audio	Wave-Table Synthesis	32-Note Synthesizer	128 Real Instrument Sounds	3D Stereo Enhancement
Typical Multimedia System	4X							
Sound Blaster Multimedia Kit	8X							

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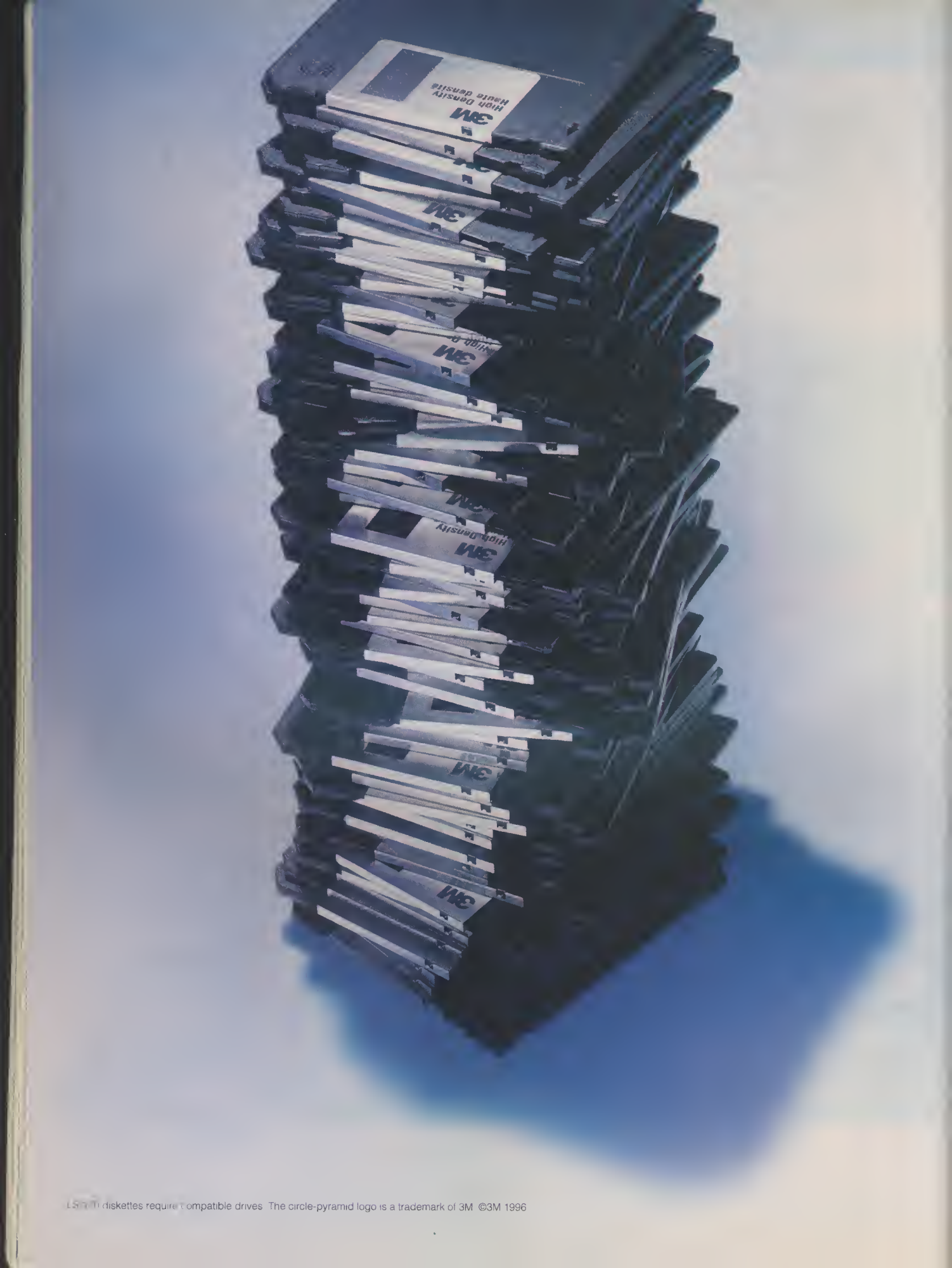
http://www.creativelabs.com

For more information call our Faxback Service at 405-372-5227 or Customer Service at 800-998-5227 x134. © 1996 Creative Technology Ltd. Sound Blaster and Creative Labs are registered trademarks and the Sound Blaster compatibility logo, Sound Blaster Performance, Sound Blaster Discovery CD and Blaster CD are trademarks of Creative Technology Ltd. All rights reserved.

Circle 108 on reader service card.



diskettes require compatible drives. The circle-pyramid logo is a trademark of 3M. ©3M 1996

Larger files. Overcrowded hard drives. Piles of diskettes. Sound familiar? Now you can reliably meet your high capacity storage needs. Introducing the 3M brand LS-120 laser servo 120 MB diskette, the next standard in diskette technology. It works like the diskettes you're using now. Only it's faster and it holds more. Up to five times faster and holds 80 times more. Multi-media presentations. Downloaded Internet files. Large database files.

What's more, new LS-120 drives also read and write your current diskettes up to three times faster. No wonder more businesses protect important information on 3M brand data storage products than on any other brand. Look for the new LS-120 drives built into new Compaq PCs or available as an option. For information call 1-800-888-1889, ext. 4001, e-mail us at datastorage@mmm.com, or visit our Web site at www.mmm.com/datastorage.

The reasons for our new 120 MB diskette just keep stacking up.

3M *Innovation*

Circle 102 on reader service card.

Corel® Office Professional, the #1 Suite Solution for Today's Office

$499.99* Full CD-ROM version

$259.99* Competitive upgrade CD-ROM version

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- Corel® Quattro® Pro 6.0
- Paradox® 5.0
- Corel® Presentations™ 3.0

Plus:

Business Graphics

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- 1,000 fonts
- 10,000 clipart images

Desktop Utilities

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- Dashboard™ 3.0
- Corel® Screen Saver

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- GroupWise™ 4.1 client license‡
- Envoy™ 1.0
- InfoCentral™ 1.1

Corel® Office Professional Beats Microsoft® Office in so many ways

Corel® Office Professional helps you accomplish more in less time—with better-looking results. It's also the only suite that makes optimum power and productivity a reality for your business. Delivering state-of-the-art office applications, sophisticated graphics tools and superior Internet connectivity, Corel® Office Professional's 16-bit power outperforms Microsoft® Office for Windows® 95 in several key areas.

Corel® WordPerfect® 6.1

- Combined text justification - use flush left, center and flush right *all on the same li*
- Reveal codes display - shows every formatting detail of your document—great for trouble-shooting
- QuickTasks™ - automated tasks that work across multiple applications
- Grammatik® - rewrites incorrect sentences with a click of the mouse. Helps you write better—faster
- QuickFinder™ - finds any file from anywhere you specify in a flash
- Graphics editing - control the brightness and contrast of a picture
- Make It Fit™ Expert - shrinks or expands a document and you choose what formatting features are changed
- QuickCorrect™ - corrects typos and expands abbreviations on the fly
- Document Experts - just fill in the blanks for instant professional letters, memos, fax sheets and more or make your own
- 98 spreadsheet functions - all available with a click of the mouse

Corel® Quattro® Pro 6.0

- Formula Composer - revolutionizes creating, editing and viewing formulas
- SpeedFormat - apply your choice of ready-made formats to any range—for great-looking spreadsheet printouts
- Analytical Experts - 19 Analytical Experts do your calculations for you
- Analytical Graphs - automatically create linear fits, moving averages, aggregations and more
- Coaches™ - interactive Coaches™ teach you all you need to know
- QuickTemplates - for fast invoices, purchase orders, expense reports and more
- Cell capacity - enter more than 1,000 characters per cell

Paradox® 5.0

- Query multiple databases simultaneously both locally and on a network
- OLE 2.0 client and server support - put a Paradox® data table right where you want it
- Complex data modeling - draw multiple relationships and links between data tables with a simple click and drag
- Data security - private user directories, record-level locking and table- and field-level validity checks ensure that data is solid and secure
- Object-oriented design - everything in Paradox® is a visually represented computer object, making it easy to create items from data tables and reports to full database applications
- Experts - quickly create forms and reports

Corel® Presentations™ 3.0

- Built-in TWAIN interface lets you scan artwork or drag video images directly into your show
- Build slide shows directly from your WordPerfect,® Microsoft® Word or Lotus Ami Pro® outline
- Versatility - apply multiple backgrounds, graphics, sound and text within one presentation

The Bottom Line:
Corel® Office Professional for Windows® 3.1x lets you do all this more quickly and easily than Microsoft Office Professional for Windows 95.

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‡Single-user client license for GroupWise™ 4 1 only No actual software or documentation included

††Telecommunication and other charges may apply, depending on usage and location

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Circle 192 on reader service card.

PointCast Network

Free News to Your Desktop

SNEAK PREVIEW

Extra! Extra! You news junkies who can't start a day without the morning paper, CNN, and NPR will find the PointCast Network (PCN) indispensable. PCN merges the advertising-supported model of network broadcast television with the power of the Internet to create a radically new, customizable personal news service at an unbeatable price: free.

Installation couldn't be easier on the beta version we tested. If your office network has an Internet connection, just run the PCN software and you're ready to enjoy up-to-the-moment news headlines from Main Street to Wall Street, as well as sports scores, weather forecasts, and stock quotes.

Audience of One To organize and make use of the flood of online news and information, you can customize PCN. Its personalizing features let you track up to 25 stocks, the weather in more than 265 cities, dozens of different sports, almost 40 industries, and even horoscope and lottery information. Where does all this data come from? Sources include Reuters, Standard & Poor's Comstock, AccuWeather, PR Newswire, SportsTicker, and Business Wire.

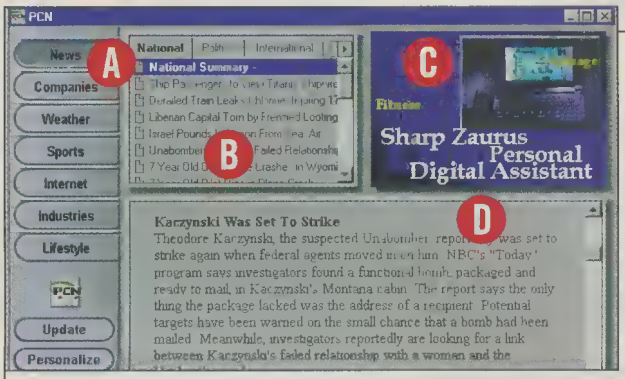
With the program's SmartScreen feature, you can set PCN to deliver current headlines and advertising to your screen whenever your computer is idle. Clicking on any of the headlines or ads then launches PCN's ChannelViewer, which is where you read the news and information that you've customized to your preferences. You're also greeted with continuous, animated advertising for products and services, but at least the ads are tailored to your interests.

One of our favorite features in PCN is Standard & Poor's Comstock stock service. If you absolutely need stock quotes on a 15-minute delay, you'll have to pay some other service. But if you're patient enough to wait another 5 minutes, PCN gives you 20-minute–delayed stock quotes on up to 25 listings—a great way to keep up with your company and your investments. And graphical weather maps keep you apprised of the climate from California to Connecticut.

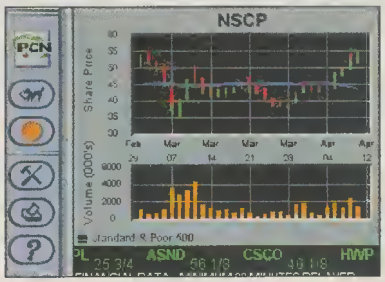
Some Limits While PCN's ChannelViewer is well designed, we found some interface drawbacks in the version we tested. One of its biggest shortcomings is that you can't select news and information to copy and paste to the Clipboard. You can print a screen, but if you want to grab a few paragraphs and send them via e-mail to a colleague, you're out of luck.

Another limitation is the browser. Many of the news items and all the advertisements have Internet links. When you click on an ad or a link, however, PCN launches its own bare-bones browser. As of this review, you can't seamlessly integrate other browsers into PCN. PointCast plans to develop a version that will work as a plug-in to Netscape's Navigator and Microsoft's Internet Explorer, although no date has been set for its release.

Overall, PCN is a terrific information source. The constant stream of advertising is distracting and the browser needs work. But for free, up-to-the-minute news updates, this is one service you won't want to miss. **RICH SCHWERIN**



Inside Information: The PointCast Network automatically brings you the latest news headlines, stock quotes (below), sports scores, and other updates via the Net—for free.



A. The PointCast Network provides **six channels of information**—News, Companies, Weather, Sports, Industries, and Lifestyle—plus Internet access.

B. Each channel can be **customized to your interests.**

C. Animated ads tailored to your interests also compete for your attention.

D. In the **main screen,** PointCast delivers news, stock reports, weather, and more.

FILEBOX

PointCast Network

★★★★

Verdict: All the news and information you want and need via the Net—for free!

Pros: Fully customizable; up-to-the-moment news and information on any topic; free of charge.

Cons: Animated ads are distracting; doesn't integrate yet with your favorite Web browser.

Features as Tested: 24-hour news and information from Reuters, Standard & Poor's Comstock, AccuWeather, PR Newswire, SportsTicker, and Business Wire.

Online Extra: Download a copy of the software from PointCast's home page at www.pointcast.com or link to its site from PC Computing Online at www.pccomputing.com.

Free
PointCast
(408) 253-0894
Reader Service No. 705

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Web Server in a Box

Juggling live piranhas can be easier than setting up a Web server. Choosing Internet protocol (IP) addresses, configuring the server, setting up fire walls, managing the site—they all add up to a gigantic task. Webtronics takes much of the headache out of Web-server configuration and maintenance with the WebBox, an all-in-one cigar box–size server that's available for less than $1,000.

Since the entire operating system is built into the server's ROM, most of the configuration is done for you. Just plug it into your Ethernet network, assign it an IP address, and it's ready to go.

Instant IP It's a foreign concept at first: There's no monitor, no keyboard—it's just a box. And it took us only ten minutes to have it up and running. Just plug the box into the network, go to any networked machine, open your Web browser, and enter the IP address that you want for the box, just as you would any Web address.

You simply see Web pages already in the box's ROM that act as an online manual. These Web pages explain how to create directories, load HTML code, and perform most other basic Web-server tasks, including monitoring server security.

All your Web file creation and site management is handled this way, which ends up not being the most productive route. You have to use your browser to paste in the HTML code (or upload several pages at once in the TAR file format) and upload graphics onto the box for every page you want to create. Also, there's no traditional hierarchical view of pages, and no easy way to move files around. If you're dealing with hundreds of HTML files, the process is slow and cumbersome. And effectively organizing them is next to impossible. The entire Web-based filing system could use a redesign. It's tricky to navigate and it's difficult to find specific files.

Small Packages The WebBox comes configured with 1MB to 8MB of flash memory. For a midsize, graphically rich Web site, 8MB is enough—unless you plan to use many Shockwave and Java effects. For publishing lots of animation and a large collection of Web pages, however, the WebBox will quickly run out of resources. It's best suited to Webmasters looking to publish text-based HTML pages with simple graphics.

The WebBox is about half as fast as a top-notch dedicated Web server, mainly because of its flash-memory setup. However, performance shouldn't be a major problem when setting up a smaller site that isn't cranking through huge databases or churning out Java code. Webtronics expects to have units with standard hard drives for storage later this year.

Another big advantage to the WebBox is security. With a traditional Web-server setup, it's still possible for someone to log on to your Web server and access your entire network, including private directories. With the WebBox, you can set it up outside your fire wall so it's the only thing browsers are connecting to.

Despite its limited storage space, there's little that the WebBox can't do. It supports all the latest technologies—including CGI scripts, Java, and Shockwave—just as full-featured servers do. If you need an inexpensive, complete Web server to handle simple HTML content, the WebBox fits the bill. JACK LYON

Instant Web Site: Tired of seeing the office's servers crippled by all the incoming Web traffic? Webtronics's WebBox is an under-$1,000, compact, all-in-one Web server that's a breeze to configure. Set it up outside the office network's fire wall for extra security.

Remote Management: Plug the WebBox into the network and you can handle all your Web site and file management through any networked machine and a Web browser.

FILEBOX

WebBox

★★★★

Verdict: Everything you need to set up your own Web server—in ten minutes or less.

Pros: All the hardware and software you need to set up your own server; inexpensive and easy to install.

Cons: Limited storage space for graphically rich Web pages; site- and file-management tools could be stronger.

Competition: Web server software packages from Microsoft, Netscape, and O'Reilly offer more control over your Web site, but they don't include the necessary hardware and are much tougher to install and configure.

Features as Tested: Ethernet port, 4MB of flash memory (1MB to 8MB available), online manual, 32-bit CPU, built-in TCL interpreter.

$990 est. street price for 4MB, $1,200 est. street price for 8MB
Webtronics
(714) 582-1946
Reader Service No. 706

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD TIOSEJO

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY TODAY!

THE MICRON™

Unleashing up to 166MHz of Pentium® processor power, the Micron Millennia™ surpasses established benchmarks to create a whole new level of unbridled computing performance. Continuing to triumphantly sweep the PC industry's most coveted awards, the Micron Millennia line was recently recognized with *PC Magazine*'s "Best Products of 1995" award. The Millennia series, legendary for superior speed and outstanding value, will handle the most challenging applications—right now! So if your style is to work hard and fast, the Micron Millennia is designed just for you.

intel inside pentium

PC MAGAZINE BEST OF 1995
January 9, 1996
MILLENNIA

Designed for Microsoft® Windows®95

MILLENNIA P166

- Intel 166MHz Pentium processor
- 512KB pipelined burst cache, flash BIOS
- 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft® Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows® 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
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- Microsoft Works 95 CD

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B
- 16MB EDO RAM • 1.6GB EIDE hard drive
- 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs

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C
- 32MB EDO RAM • 2.1GB EIDE hard drive
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- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs

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- With 150MHz Pentium processor.....subtract $100
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MILLENNIA PLUS P166

- Intel 166MHz Pentium processor
- 512KB pipelined burst cache, flash BIOS
- PCI 32-bit Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller
- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A
- 16MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
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$2,699 Business lease $92/month

B
- 32MB EDO RAM • 2.0GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
- 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)

$3,499 Business lease $119/month

C
- 64MB EDO RAM • 4.0GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
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- With 150MHz Pentium processor.....subtract $100

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Micron computers are winning critical acclaim for their exceptional quality, record-breaking speeds and dependable performance. Recognized regularly for technical excellence and for outstanding customer service and technical support, Micron computers have been chosen for *PC Magazine*'s "Best Products of 1995" and "Editor's Choice" five times, *PC World*'s "Best Buy" over 50 times, *PC Computing*'s 1995 MVP award and *Computer Shopper*'s "Best Buy of 1995." Micron received the highest scores in *PC Magazine*'s "1995 Service and Reliability" survey in the four categories of "Customer Satisfaction with Reliability," "Repair Experience," "Technical Support" and "Future Likelihood of Buying Again."

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
May 30, 1995
MILLENNIA P120

"The Millennia is nothing short of the best all-around PC available on the market today."

—*PC Magazine*, April 25, 1995

MVP
PC Computing
December 1995
MILLENNIA P133

"...we tested the latest PCs until they begged for mercy and found a no-compromise choice: Micron's Millennia P133."

—*PC Computing*, December 1995

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- Intel 133MHz Pentium® processor
- Dual Pentium SMP ZIF sockets
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- Slots: 5 EISA, 2 PCI, 1 EISA/PCI
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- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- Full-size tower with 10 drive bays
- Microsoft® Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows® 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ warranty*

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B • 32MB RAM • 2GB SCSI-2 hard drive
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$3,699 Business lease $126/month

- With second 133MHz Pentium processor....add $399
- With Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD.....add $99

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- Dual 133MHz Pentium processors
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- PCI 32-bit Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller
- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- Full-size tower with 10 drive bays
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A • 32MB RAM • 2GB SCSI-2 hard drive
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$3,999 Business lease $136/month

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Exceptional speed, performance and reliability are just a few of the reasons Micron is a technology leader in PC design. From the award-winning PowerStation to the PowerServer SMP P266, Micron offers a complete range of dependable products to suit every need. When you're considering your next PC purchase, consider a Micron PC.

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- Intel 100MHz Pentium processor
- 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
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- PCI 64-bit video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
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- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A • 8MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
• Microsoft Works 95 CD
$1,699 Business lease $58/month

B • 16MB EDO RAM • 1.6GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
• Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
$2,099 Business lease $71/month

POWERSTATION LX P100

- Intel 100MHz Pentium processor
- 8MB EDO RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
- 3.5" floppy drive, flash BIOS
- PCI 64-bit graphics accelerator (1MB)
- 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 & MS Plus!
- Microsoft Works 95
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

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Again, Micron leads the industry by making affordable workstation performance a reality. The new Micron Magnum Plus Pro200 expands the limits of a workstation with the most advanced components available. The Magnum Plus Pro200 system combines superior Micron engineering with Intel's advanced Pentium® Pro processor and Windows® NT for the fastest, most reliable system on the market today. The Micron Magnum Plus Pro200—just what you'd expect from Micron Electronics, the technology leader.

intel inside PENTIUM PRO PROCESSOR

MICROSOFT WINDOWS NT READY-TO-RUN

MAGNUM PRO200

- Intel 200MHz Pentium Pro processor
- 256KB internal cache, flash BIOS
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- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD
- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A • 16MB RAM • 1.0GB EIDE hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$2,999 Business lease $102/month

B • 32MB RAM • 1.6GB EIDE hard drive
• 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
$3,799 Business lease $129/month

MAGNUM PLUS PRO200

- Intel 200MHz Pentium Pro processor
- 256KB internal cache, flash BIOS
- PCI 32-bit Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller
- 8X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound & speakers
- PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.51 CD
- Microsoft Office Pro 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

A • 32MB RAM • 2GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 15" Micron 15FGx, .28dp (13.7" display)
$4,199 Business lease $143/month

B • 64MB RAM • 4GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
$5,599 Business lease $176/month

C • 128MB RAM • 9GB Fast SCSI-2 hard drive
• 21" Micron 21FGx, .26dp (20.0" display)
$9,299 Business lease $292/month

Micron Power MPP Warranty & Support

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- 5-year/3-year Micron Power℠ warranty*

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- With 133MHz Pentium processor.....add **$100**

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- Microsoft Phone telephony software
- Internet ready
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  - Internet Explorer
- Prodigy, America Online, & CompuServe trial memberships
- PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 2MB EDO
- 17" Micron 17FGx, .26dp (15.8" display)
- *Tool-free* mini-tower or desktop
- Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
- Microsoft Windows 95 CD & MS Plus! CD
- Microsoft Office 95 & Bookshelf 95 CDs
- **Quicken Financial Pak includes:** Quicken Deluxe 5.0; Quicken Financial Planner; Quicken Parents' Guide to Money; Quicken Family Lawyer
- **Microsoft Home Pak includes:** Works 4.0 for Windows 95; Publisher Deluxe for Windows 95; Encarta 96; Encarta 96 World Atlas; Music Central 96; Wine Guide; Arcade 1.0; Scenes–Sports Extremes Collection; Cinemania 96; Julia Child Home Cooking; Best of Windows Entertainment Pack; CD Sampler (includes Fury³ game demo)
- 5-year/3-year Micron Power warranty*

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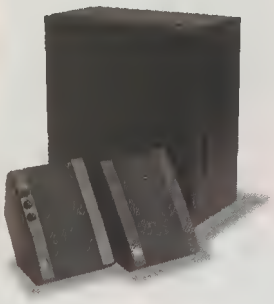
- Advent AV370 Powered Partners stereo speakers w/subwoofer $199
- Microsoft® SideWinder 3D Pro joystick $59



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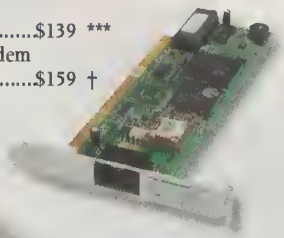
- Plextor EightPlex 8X 1.2MB/s SCSI internal CD-ROM drive .....$200 ** (upgrade from systems with standard 8X EIDE CD-ROM drive)
- Iomega SCSI Jaz drive with 1.0GB removable cartridge .....$399 **
- Iomega Zip IDE drive with 100MB removable cartridge $99
- Iomega Ditto 800 (400/800MB) Travan Tape back up w/tape $149
- Iomega Ditto 3200 (1.6/3.2GB) Travan Tape back up w/tape $299
- Conner 4/8GB DDS-2 DAT SCSI Tape back up w/tape .....$999 **

DISPLAY/VIDEO OPTIONS

- 17" Hitachi SuperScan 1711 (15.9" display) .26dp color monitor.....$150 ††
- 21" Hitachi SuperScan 2111 (20" display) .26dp color monitor.....$1,050 ††
- Diamond Stealth64 video card w/2MB VRAM.....$150 †††
- Diamond Stealth64 video card w/4MB VRAM.....$300 †††
- #9 Imagine 128 video card w/4MB VRAM.....$500 †††
- #9 Imagine 128 video card w/8MB VRAM.....$750 †††

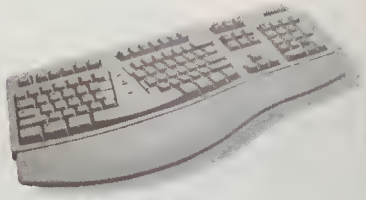
COMMUNICATION OPTIONS

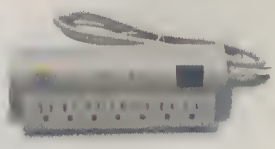
- 28.8bd V.34 internal data/fax modem .....$139 ***
- 28.8bd V.34 internal Telephony data/fax modem w/full duplex speakerphone and voice mail .....$159 †



OTHER OPTIONS

- APC Per7T surge suppressor $39
- APC Pro7T surge suppressor $59
- Microsoft Natural Keyboard $49





NETWORKING OPTIONS

- 3COM 3C509 Ethernet ISA NIC (BNC, AUI & RJ-45) $99
- 3COM 3C595 Fast Etherlink PCI 10/100 NIC (RJ-45 only) $159
- SMC ISA TokenCard network card $199

* Upgrade from systems with standard 16-bit sound
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*** V.34 modem includes trial memberships to CompuServe®, Prodigy® and America Online®
† Requires sound card
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Powerful!

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CD-RONWhite

Random Access

Man turns into insect! Aliens ionize precious air plasma! What ancient wisdom lies in the mystery of the missing obelisks? What long-term pleasures are in your future? Angels appear as Mary Kay housewives. And who gives a rat's behind? These are just a few subjects blossoming from the latest crop of weird and wonderful CDs.

Bugging Out: You can check in to a roach motel with Bad Mojo.

BAD MOJO ●●●●●

Kafka would have loved Bad Mojo. In this game you turn into a cockroach. Your goal is to find your human self and avoid death, which isn't all that easy. You can be gobbled up by a rat stuck in a trap or sizzled in the flames of a water heater. And of course there are the roach motels that aren't on any roach-recommended list. Your actions are limited to crawling around and nudging objects to change their positions. Sounds like there's not much to do, but actually it's engrossing. The fascinating photorealistic backgrounds let you see the world on a whole different scale. And the roach you control moves so much like the real thing that it's creepy. Play this once, and squashing a bug will never be the same.

Bad Mojo / Pulse Entertainment / (800) 264-0325, (310) 264-5579 / $55 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 710*

ESCAPE FROM MANAGEMENT HELL ●●●●

Who's weirder than your boss, right? Give the slave driver this Windows self-improvement CD. Say it's a joke, but it could benefit you both. This disc provides genuinely thought-provoking, if strange, management advice. Twelve businesspeople are imprisoned in "management hell," and each has a parable to tell confessing their sins—blind reliance on data, fear of taking risks, and so on. There's a quiz at the end, which sounds really Mickey Mouse, but it helps focus the parable lessons. This disc might be just the right gift for your boss, or yourself. If you're a manager who doesn't see the humor of this CD, then you're probably one of its characters.

Escape from Management Hell / Zelos / (800) 345-6777 / $30 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 711*

Satanic Self-Help: Escape from Management Hell tells how to get out.

UFOs . . . THE REAL STORY ●

UFOs . . . The Real Story opens by stating that this CD is based on the work of Stanton T. Friedman, a nuclear physicist. See? He can't be a kook—he's a nuclear physicist. Yeah, right. This amateurish CD trots out the same old videos and photos, throws in some scenes from *Alien Autopsy,* and mixes it all with pure malarkey. For example, Stan tells us the glow from a flying saucer in one picture is "ionized air plasma." Tell me, what the hell is air plasma?

UFOs . . . The Real Story / Unity Publishing / (800) 704-3777 / $39 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 712*

INCIDENT AT ROSWELL ●●

No saucer survey is complete without a reference to the fabled UFO crash near Roswell, New Mexico. (I've been to Roswell, and believe me, the only reason aliens would stop there is if they crashed.) Incident at Roswell doesn't pass the Blockbuster Video test, which is the following: Does this CD give you anything you couldn't get from a rented video? No. It's an MPEG rendition of a decent English-television documentary and more *Alien Autopsy* footage. Even the controls mimic a VCR's. Hit Eject.

Incident at Roswell / OmniMedia / (800) 728-4000 / $15 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 713*

PRIMUS TALES FROM THE PUNCHBOWL ●●●●

Primus—the rock band that makes the banjo boy in *Deliverance* look normal—naturally doesn't have a normal CD. This disc is an enhanced CD, which means you can play Primus's music in a regular CD player, or you can load it

●●●●● *Night at the Opera on home theater.* ●●●● *Eraserhead on fast-forward.*
●●● *Waterworld on slo-mo.* ●● *Barbarella on Betamax.* ● *Showgirls on radio.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES McGOON

U.S.S. Grunge: Take a musical trip through the Primus punch bowl.

into a Windows or Macintosh CD-ROM drive to see the radical videos that accompany the songs. Really, dude. Even if you're not a Primus fan there are some great visuals on this CD, although it's agonizingly awkward to maneuver.

Primus Tales from the Punchbowl / Interscope Records / (800) 807-2696 / $18 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 714*

THE SEARCH FOR ANCIENT WISDOM ○○

Hey, I'm as big a sucker as you can find when it comes to parapsychology or any other harebrained "X-Thing." But I found myself clicking impatiently to escape the vacation-photo, dreary narration of Bea and Bob Connolly, the people responsible for this CD. They're the kind of people who would claim that Noah was a vegetarian, and I could do without anything they say about the New Age wonders of Kirlian photography or the Pyramids. But worse than the content of this disc is its organization. A chapter called "The First Obelisk" talks about the ancient Egyptians but never mentions an obelisk. And if you click on a map symbol while in a text section on the former Soviet Union, a map of Cuba pops up. Spinning and stationary icons invite clicking, but nothing happens. Forget it, and watch *In Search Of*... on cable.

The Search for Ancient Wisdom / Cambrix Publishing / (800) 992-8781, (818) 993-4274 / $30 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 715*

THE ENCHANTED TAROT ○○○

Tarot cards are the most mellow way to be weird. And The Enchanted Tarot's psychedelic art, soft music, and hushed explanations about the incredible power of my "higher self" got me so mellow that I dripped off my chair. Part of the CD is a tutorial on what all those illustrated cards are supposed to mean. But the fun part is having your cyberfortune told. In my case, I got a story—something about a stone woman putting two wands at the mouth of a cave while a giant flower radiated energy. I am, the cards told me, "a disciplined person willing to postpone short-term pleasures for long-term goals." Ha! Shows how much the cards know. If you want your cards read, do it right: Find an old gypsy, and cross her palm with silver.

The Enchanted Tarot / Enteractive / (800) 452-9999, (202) 337-3657 / $45 list price / *Reader Service No. 716*

JAYNE LOADER'S PUBLIC SHELTER ○○○○

Whenever I start feeling blue, nothing perks me up like a little nuclear holocaust comedy. Based partially on the cult film *The Atomic Cafe*, this disc laughs at our '50s naïveté about nuclear hazards. It contains 78 video clips and 12 hours of audio—much of it vintage material from Civil Defense films and cartoons. This material promotes the idea that a nuclear attack isn't all *that* bad, provided you huddle next to a wall as the bomb goes off, and afterward remember to wash your produce real good before eating it. This CD is a bit amateurish at times, but that only adds to the Mystery Science Theater feel of the disc and its material. The only problem with it is that the joke gets old after a few examples.

Jayne Loader's Public Shelter / EJL Productions / (800) 229-3181, (201) 783-5767 / $60 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 717*

ANGELS, SAINTS, AND ICONS ○○○○

This is an unambitious CD that far exceeds its ambitions. It provides historical and mythical background on angels, saints, and icons, and it's jammed with enough visuals to qualify as religious clip art. It has an unassuming look laced with a typewriter-style font, some quiet background music, and a few narrations to make reading less of a chore. By sticking to simplicity, it avoids the confusion that accompanies CDs when they grow too clever to use. Angels, Saints, and Icons is nothing fancy, but what it does, it does quite well.

Angels, Saints, and Icons / Quanta Press / (612) 379-3956 / $50 list price / *Reader Service No. 718*

THE MUSEUM OF ANYTHING GOES ○○

The idea of this CD is a museum full of 3-D animations and videos where anything is permissible. For example, you get to—are you ready?—take a trip down the Chicago River! *Yow!* Haven't you waited a lifetime for that? Or you can watch a woman ice-skate against a background of a freeway. Or click on something to see a giraffe change into a monkey. Things don't get much wilder than that, folks. Better not play this CD-ROM if you have a bad heart.

The Museum of Anything Goes / Wayzata Technology / (800) 735-7321, (218) 326-0597 / $17 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 719*

COMPLETE GARDENING ○○○

Here's a CD that's as tame as your own backyard, though it's weird in its own way. Complete Gardening is a database of plants, well integrated with hot spots that intertwine planting information, techniques, how-it-works animations, and beautiful color photos. It contains good, basic, and extensive advice for the experienced or puttering gardener. But Microsoft, which has the power—and the obligation—to set multimedia standards, has created a strange new interface. Despite a shelf full of other Microsoft CD-ROMs, I didn't have a clue how to use this one. While the text is hyperlinked, the only way to get from one feature to another is to back up through every level or start at the main level again. What makes it infuriating is that even though it takes up 6MB on your hard drive, Complete Gardening seems to draw each feature from the CD-ROM drive. The result? Complete Gardening is slower than watching ivy grow.

Complete Gardening / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / $35 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 720*

CD Quite Contrary: How does Microsoft's Complete Gardening go?

It's enough to make your eyes pop, your hair smoke and your hands shake. But hurry. Everybody wants one.

It's here. The only true 128-bit graphics accelerator on the market. It's got incredible 2D acceleration. Mindboggling 3D. And a powerful 256-bit video engine. In short, it's the all-encompassing, all-powerful, knock-down, drag-out absolute extreme of visual acceleration. If that's the kind of performance you're hurting for, call 1-800-GET NINE. Or hurry to your local CompUSA or Computer City.

Check us out on the web at
http://www.nine.com/imagine2

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Circle 290 on reader service card.

12.1" DISPLAY, 1024 x 768 RESOLUTION

Watch brilliant colors spring to life on a display so large, it rivals desktop monitors. 1024 x 768 resolution provides the sharpest images ever found in a portable and 64% more workspace than 800 x 600 resolution.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

ZOOMED VIDEO

Toshiba's innovative Zoomed Video (ZV) architecture drives portable multimedia into an amazing new dimension. Simply insert an industry standard ZV PC Card and the task of transferring video data is automatically offloaded from the system bus. This means you get advanced multimedia capabilities such as video conferencing, on-screen television and support of current MPEG1 and future MPEG2 video playback.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

CARDBUS

Tecra's two PC Card slots support 16-bit PC Cards and are ZV card and CardBus ready.

TECRA

720CDT
- 1024 x 768 resolution

710CDT
- 800 x 600 resolution

BOTH MODELS
- 12.1" dia. color active matrix display
- 133MHz Intel Pentium® Processor (2.9v) with 256KB of level 2 cache
- 16MB of high speed EDO memory (expandable to 144MB)
- Removable 1.2 billion byte (=1.13GB) HDD
- PCI system-bus architecture
- HiQVideo™ multimedia PCI graphics controller with 64-bit BitBLT graphics acceleration, interpolation and scaling
- Modular 6X CD-ROM drive
- Lithium Ion battery
- 16-bit Sound Blaster™ Pro compatible audio system
- Integrated 28.8Kbps data/fax modem with telephony capabilities
- Supports two Type II or one Type III 16-bit PC Card(s); ZV card and 32-bit CardBus ready
- Infrared data port (IrDA-compliant)
- Optional Desk Station™ V Plus docking station
- Optional NoteDock™ II Enhanced Port Replicator
- Pre-installed software: Windows® 95 or MS-DOS® with Windows® for Workgroups, Indeo™ video, and Synchro™ Multimedia Connect™
- 3-year limited warranty
- Toll-free technical support – 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Designed for Microsoft® Windows®95

intel inside pentium™ PROCESSOR

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133MHz IN FULL MOTION.

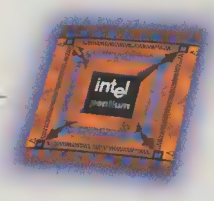
NEW TECHNOLOGY

FULL-MOTION VIDEO

The new HiQVideo™ PCI graphics controller with 64-bit BitBLT turns multimedia fantasy into fact. With hardware zoom and YUV to RGB conversion, you can have full-screen, full-motion video with an amazing depth of color and high-quality resolution.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

133MHz PENTIUM® TECHNOLOGY



Tecra combines the fastest notebook processor available today with a 256KB level 2 cache and EDO memory expandable to 144MB. The PCI architecture offers blazing video and data throughput while Tecra's 2.9v CPU delivers premium perfomance without compromising battery life.

INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS

Join a conference call from your notebook. Switch to answering machine mode while you prepare a fax. A built-in 28.8Kbps data/fax modem, full-duplex speakerphone and RJ-11 phone jack put a world of advanced communication features at your fingertips.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

DESK STATION V PLUS

Unlock all the expansion possibilities you need with two PCI/ISA expansion slots, an additional dedicated PCI slot and two Type III PC Card slots (32-bit CardBus ready). Desk Station™ V Plus also features Windows® 95 hot-docking capabilities and a SelectBay for the ultimate in convenience and flexibility.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

6X CD-ROM

Get 50% more speed than a 4X CD-ROM when accessing video, sound and data on CD. Or, using Toshiba's SelectBay™, interchange the modular CD-ROM drive with the floppy disk drive in seconds.

THE NEW TECRA™. THE NEWEST TECHNOLOGY. Tecra combines the brand new 133MHz mobile Pentium® processor with screaming-fast PCI architecture and Zoomed Video technology that brings unprecedented video and graphics performance into the portable realm. And with memory expandable to 144MB, you can have more than you've ever experienced in a notebook computer. Add to that a giant 12.1" display and a 1.2 billion byte hard drive and you've got a system that will put you in full motion instantly. For more information visit the Toshiba website at http://www.toshiba.com, or for a dealer near you, call 1-800-457-7777.

In Touch with Tomorrow

TOSHIBA

The World's Best Selling Portable Computers.

Circle 215 on reader service card.

The 1,001 best Internet downloads

Amazing

The best thing about the Net isn't the access to cool graphics, awesome sounds, or gigabytes of information. It's all the free stuff, just waiting for you to grab. Of course, a lot of downloads aren't worth the time it takes to get them. So the editors of *PC Computing* combed the Internet to find 1,001 of the very best.

Internet 102
- Web Servers
- Browsers
- Browser Plug-ins
- Internet Organizers
- Internet Mail
- Encoders/Encryption
- Newsreaders
- FTP/Archie/Finger/Gopher
- Chat/Voice/ Videoconferencing
- Miscellaneous Internet

Applications 104
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- Personal Information Managers
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- Project Management
- Communication
- Personal Finance
- Stocks/Bonds/Mutual Funds
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- Miscellaneous Financial

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- Adobe Photoshop
- Corel
- Corel WordPerfect
- Lotus 1-2-3
- Lotus Ami Pro/Word Pro
- Lotus Notes
- Miscellaneous Lotus Add-ins
- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Word
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Utilities 112
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- File Managers
- Memory Managers
- Applets/Accessory Replacements
- Interface Enhancers
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- File Removers
- File Viewers
- File Converters
- Font Management
- Printer Utilities
- Text Editors
- Encryption
- Virus
- Security
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Multimedia 116
- Graphics Editing
- 3-D Tools
- Graphics Viewers/ Converters
- Screen Grabbers
- Business Graphics
- Miscellaneous Graphics
- Sound
- Video

Free Stuff

We scoured all kinds of sites—from the smallest personal pages to monster domains like Ziff-Davis Interactive's Shareware Library—and rounded up amazing applications, pulse-pounding games, and tons of the hottest shareware. Then we loaded every single one of them onto our Web site, www.pccomputing.com, ready for you to download. It couldn't be easier.

Web-Page Development 119
- Page-Creation Tools
- Web Graphics Tools
- VRML
- Java Tools
- Miscellaneous Tools

Online 122
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- Miscellaneous Add-ins

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- Mail
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Patches and Drivers 125
- CD-ROM Drives/ Controllers
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Home and Hobbies 126
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Fun Stuff 132
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- Art (Wallpaper)
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- Toys

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- Flight/Space Simulation
- Auto Racing
- Adventure
- Arcade
- Strategy
- Cards
- Online
- Puzzles
- Sports
- Miscellaneous Games

LIESL LA GRANGE NOBLE AND THE PC COMPUTING STAFF

INTERNET

WEB SERVERS

Internet Information Server Microsoft's speedy, full-featured Web server for Windows NT.

EMWAC HTTP Server A freeware Web server for Windows NT.

Internet Creator A fast, easy, and inexpensive way to create and maintain a complete Web site.

NetWare Web Server Turns a NetWare network server into a tool for publishing pages on the Web and connecting to the Internet.

VRealm Multi-User Server A multiuser 3-D Web server that allows real-time interaction in a 3-D environment.

WebSite Try this full-featured, 32-bit server for either Windows 95 or Windows NT.

WebSite Professional A complete Web-server solution, plus SSL and S-HTTP for cryptographic security.

Windows httpd Server A freeware Web server from the Webmeisters at NCSA.

PC Computing Best

BROWSERS

Internet Explorer Microsoft's top-of-the-line Web browser for Windows 95.

Navigator From Netscape, the most widely used and technologically advanced Web browser around.

Cello Access nearly any Web service or activity (newsgroup, gopher, FTP, and more) with this full-featured Web browser.

CyberGate View 3-D worlds and communicate with other visitors in real time.

Cyberjack A full Internet suite for Windows 95, with hundreds of preloaded Web sites.

HotJava Web browser written in Java and designed for viewing Java-enabled Web pages.

NCSA Mosaic for Windows 95 The recently enhanced version of NCSA's industry-first graphical Web browser.

Netriever Automatically retrieves and displays your favorite Internet sites.

SlipKnot Visit the Web through ordinary dial-up (not SLIP or PPP) Unix accounts.

Virtus Voyager View and explore the Net's 3-D virtual-reality worlds.

BROWSER PLUG-INS

FOR NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR

Live3D Netscape's own plug-in that lets you tour 3-D worlds on the Web.

RealAudio Play audio files and listen to live broadcasts over the Internet with this plug-in from Progressive Networks.

Shockwave Run Macromedia's Director multimedia files over the Web.

Acrobat Amber Reader View Adobe's PDF files directly from your Web browser.

ASAP WebShow View, download, and print graphically rich materials

The Best of the Internet Awards

Who's the best? There are the Oscars for movies, Emmys for television, Tonys for Broadway, Grammys for music. And now, *PC Computing*'s exclusive awards for the Net. These best of the Internet prizes will be awarded throughout the year for the top Internet products, downloads, technologies, and sites. Now, finding the best of the Net is easy. For quick links to all of our winners, visit our awards pages at www.pccomputing.com.

INTERNET

Web Servers
Internet Information Server, Microsoft

Browsers
Internet Explorer, Microsoft
Navigator, Netscape Communications

Browser Plug-ins
Live3D, Netscape Communications
RealAudio, Progressive Networks
Shockwave, Macromedia
VRML Add-In, Microsoft
ToolVox Player, Voxware

Internet Organizers
Indexer, Anders Lindh

Internet Mail
Eudora Light, Qualcomm
Pegasus Mail, David Harris

Encoders/Encryption
ESS-Code, Electric Storm Software

Newsreaders
Free Agent, Forté

FTP/Archie/Finger/Gopher
CuteFTP, Alex Kunadze

Chat/Voice/Videoconferencing
Internet Phone, VocalTec

Miscellaneous Internet
PointCast, PointCast
RoboDUN, Mark Gamber

APPLICATIONS

Accounting
Medlin Accounting Shareware for Windows, Medlin Accounting Shareware

Personal Information Managers
GoldMine 3.0 for Windows 95, Goldmine Software

Business
While You Were Out, Caliente Int'l

Project Management
TraxTime, Spud City Software

Communication
Fast Dialer, Peter Vanderborght

Personal Finance
ChequeBook, Robert Walling

Stocks/Bonds/Mutual Funds
Capital Gainz, AlleyCat Software

Loan/Lease
Loan Calculator Plus, Pine Grove Software

APPLICATION ADD-INS

Adobe PageMaker
Style Report, MapSoft

Adobe Photoshop
The Black Box Demo, Alien Skin Software

Corel
CMX Viewer, Corel

Corel WordPerfect
WordPerfect Internet Publisher, Corel

Lotus 1-2-3
Power Windows, Soft Breeze

Lotus Ami Pro/Word Pro
Word Pro for Windows 3.1, Lotus Development

Lotus Notes
InterNotes Web Publisher, Lotus Development

Microsoft Access
Contract Master, Techmine

Microsoft Excel
Internet Assistant for Microsoft Excel for Windows 95, Microsoft

Microsoft Word
WDPR 95, Woody Leonhard and Pinecliffe Int'l

Miscellaneous Application Add-ins
AutoReports, CompuForce

UTILITIES

Compression
WinZip for Windows 95, Nico Mak

Desktop Utilities
Any Folder Shell Extension, Microsoft
Plug-In, Plannet Crafters
WinImage, Gilles Vollant

File Finders
File Ferret, Fineware Systems

File Managers
Folders, Sloop Software
Visual File Manager, Tuesday Software

Memory Managers
TrackIt for Windows 95 and NT, Dietmar Bos

Applets/Accessory Replacements
TimeWizard 95, Executive Partners Software

Interface Enhancers
SmilerShell for Windows 95, Bardon Data Systems

Automation
Auto Task for Windows, Brian K. Freese
What I Did, Mission Critical Software

File Removers
Remove-It for Windows 95, Vertisoft Systems

File Viewers
Quick View Plus, Inso

File Converters
HTML Transit, InfoAccess
HTMStrip, Wayne Software

Font Management
FontLook, Len Dobrowski
Type Designer, DTP Software

Printer Utilities
PrintSwitch 95, Graphic Impact

Text Editors
Mega Edit, WinNet Communications

from the Web.

Astound Web Player Play both Gold Disk's Astound and Studio M presentations directly from a Web page.

Clearweb Collect your bookmarks and then publish them as a graphical map.

CyberSpell Proof and spell-check Web pages and e-mail without leaving your browser.

EarthTime An electronic clock that helps you make on-time connections around the globe.

Word Viewer plug-in View Microsoft's Word 6.0 or Word 7.0 documents without leaving Netscape's Navigator.

VR Scout for Windows 95 Lets you view and be a part of the Web's virtual-reality worlds.

VRealm A Windows 95 or Windows NT 3-D browser available as a stand-alone app or as a plug-in for Netscape's Navigator 2.0.

FOR INTERNET EXPLORER

VRML Add-In Explores VRML-based virtual worlds with Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

Bookmark Importer Converts Netscape's BOOKMARK.HTM file to the Favorites format used by Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

FOR ANY BROWSER

ToolVox Player Web Audio player that makes embedding and playing voices easy.

OocuMagix HotPage Capture, organize, and manage Web pages with this plug-in. Also available as a stand-alone application.

Milktruck Delivery A Web-browser enhancement that lets you quickly browse your favorite Web sites offline.

Web Watch Monitors Web addresses for changes, and then records results in an HTML document for easy access.

INTERNET ORGANIZERS

Indexer Indexes cache and creates a reusable HTML list of file titles and URLs.

FURL Helps you store, sort, and retrieve all kinds of information stashed in cryptic URLs.

Internet Control Center A great utility for managing your Internet tools and activities.

SlipBar Gain easy access to your principal Internet applications.

URL Grabber Grabs and stores Internet addresses from a variety of sources.

URLs Out A great little utility for Microsoft's Internet Explorer that combines URLs into a single HTML file.

WebODex Organizer Sort all your Internet addresses in one convenient location.

INTERNET MAIL

Eudora Light Collects and reads all your SMTP and POP3 mail from one location.

Pegasus Mail A full-featured e-mail program for networks and stand-alone systems running the Winsock TCP/IP interface.

CommTouch Software's Pronto Mail A Windows-based SMTP-mail client for TCP/IP e-mail.

e-mail Notify for Windows 95 Checks for e-mail and lets you know when new messages arrive.

FlashNote Applet Allows Internet users to send messages and files to each other.

IMail Server for Windows A complete SMTP and POP3 client e-mail

---

Encryption
Encrypt-it for Windows 95, MæDae Enterprises

Virus
VirusScan 95, McAfee Associates

Security
PassKeeper, iSYS Int'l

System Utilities
AttrMenu/95, MainSoft

Utilities/Help
PC Owner's Survival Guide, Dynamic Living Media

MULTIMEDIA

Graphics Editing
Paint Shop Pro, Jasc

3-D Tools
Fractal Landscape Generator, Scott White

WalkThrough Pro, Virtus

Graphics Viewers/Converters
Media Center, Jasc

Screen Grabbers
Screen Thief for Windows, Nildram Software

Business Graphics
ASAP WordPower, Software Publishing

Sound
Sound Gadget Pro, Nigel Magnay

Optical Jammer, Kempton Software

Video
Vidvue, Lawrence Gozum

WEB-PAGE DEVELOPMENT

Page Creation Tools (HTML editors)
EasyHelp/Web, Eon Solutions

HotDog Pro, Sausage Software

Web Graphics Tools
WebImage for Windows 95 and NT, Group 42

Virtual-Reality Markup Language
Fountain, Caligari

Java Tools
Egor, Sausage Software

Java Developer's Kit, Sun Microsystems

Miscellaneous Web-Page Development
WebForms, Q&D Software Development

ONLINE

Terminal Packages
QmodemPro for Windows 95, Mustang Software

BBS
PowerBBS for Windows, Russell Frey

File Transfer
Filex, Durand Communications Network

Miscellaneous Online Add-ins
Voice E-Mail for WinCIM, Bonzi Software

NETWORK SOFTWARE

Mail
Network Email, Ivory Tower Software

Intranet Tools
Columbus, Hummingbird Communications

NetWare Applications
NetWare Client 32 for Windows 95, Novell

LAN Software
NetDoc for Windows, TeraVision

PROGRAMMING

C/C++
API Master, CleverWare

Borland Delphi
Component Builder for Delphi, John Taylor

Macromedia Director
Essentials, Techno-Marketing

Microsoft Visual Basic
VBScript, Jason Simmons

Miscellaneous Programming
DDE Control Centre, O'Neill Software

HOME AND HOBBIES

Home/Family
Essential Home Inventory, Alston Software Labs

Gambling
ZLotto 96, Zach Smith

Music
SoundZ, Unicorn Software

Religion
Sword Master for Windows, Capstone Software

Health/Fitness
Stretch Break, Para Technologies

Cooking/Food/Beverages
Professional Bartender, Aardvark Software

SudsW, Michael Taylor

Sports
PowerPlay Viewer for Baseball, Cognos

Weather/Astronomy
Eye on Sunrise, Arbor Verde Press

Miscellaneous Hobbies
Collect, Alston Software Labs

Miscellaneous Application
As-Easy-As, Trius

FUN STUFF

Icons and Pointers
Animouse, Troy Beckstrom

Practical Jokes
Win-Prank, HMSoft

Screen Savers
Flying Toilets, Berkeley Systems

Sounds
Movie Sounds, Dexter Gresh

Fonts
Gutenberg TrueType Font, Gerard Bernor

Art (Wallpaper)
Windows Wallpaper Changer, Jim Partake

Clip Art/Graphics Files
Free graphics, Jeff Gutterud Publishing

Toys
Greatest Paper Airplanes, KittyHawk Software

GAMES

Action
Duke Nukem 3D, 3D Realms

Flight/Space Simulation
Descent II, Parallax Software and Interplay Productions

Auto Racing
Big Red Racing, Domark Software

Adventure
Bad Mojo, Pulse Entertainment

Arcade
Extreme Pinball, Epic Megagames

Strategy
Gazillionaire, LavaMind

Cards
Pretty Good Solitaire, Tom Warfield

Online
Internet Gaming Zone Interface, Electric Gravity

Puzzles
Triazzle Living Puzzles, Berkeley Systems

Sports
Virtual Pool, Interplay Productions

system with optional mail-server support.

List Server Works with Microsoft's Mail 3.0 or later to automatically forward mail based on a nickname list you define.

Magic Cap for Windows An easy way to send, receive, and organize your electronic messages.

MailCall for Windows 95 Use it to consolidate as many as three e-mail accounts into one.

VBReader An offline mail reader that lets you download mail from selected forums on BBSs and Internet sites.

WinBiff A mail notification program that supports UUCP, Pegasus, Eudora, Novell, and other mail systems.

WinNet Mail and News Uses a multiple-document interface e-mail system to download Internet mail and Usenet newsgroup postings.

ENCODERS/ENCRYPTION

ESS-Code Quickly convert binary data to ASCII text and back again for transfer over the Internet.

AAA UUE IV Convert binary files to text and send them over the Net to your family and friends.

UUENCODE/DECODE Convert binary files into encoded text and send them via e-mail or post them to Usenet newsgroups.

VuePrint Pro/32 A graphics and sound program that can display, manipulate, print, read, and write UUEncoded Unix files.

WinPGP A superb Windows front end for the DOS-level e-mail encryption utility Pretty Good Privacy.

NEWSREADERS

Free Agent A powerful sample version of Forté's Agent Usenet newsreader.

Newsreader Easily sorts and filters stories, searches on keywords, and archives stories into a database.

News Xpress A small and simple newsreader that gets the job done.

OUI Complete trial version of a second-generation offline navigator for Internet newsgroups.

WinVN A full-featured, easy-to-use 32-bit Usenet newsreader.

FTP/ARCHIE/FINGER/GOPHER

CuteFTP Avoid the FTP command line with this simple, graphical FTP interface.

Finger 3.1 Discover who's out there on the Net with this Winsock Finger utility.

FTP Icon Connection Manage your FTP file transfers with point-and-click ease.

InterSnoop Combines three Internet search functions to help you find user and server information on the Net.

WFTPD Windows FTP Server Turns your Internet-connected, 16-bit Windows PC into an FTP server for file transfers.

Windows FTP Daemon Make your PC an FTP site on the Net.

Windows QVT An integrated suite of Internet tools providing FTP, news, and e-mail clients.

Windows Socket FTP Client A complete Windows FTP program that works with several connections, including PPP and SLIP.

Wsarchie Helps users locate files and directories on anonymous FTP servers.

WS Gopher Provides useful document search and retrieval functions, mouse-click transfers, and file captures.

CHAT/VOICE/VIDEOCONFERENCING

Internet Phone Make 60-second phone calls over the Net without long-distance charges.

CU-SeeMe A one-to-one–connection videoconferencing package for PCs and Macintoshes.

Internet Wave Enables FM-quality audio transmissions over the Internet.

Look@Me Applet Lets Internet users look at each other's screens for real-time collaboration.

mIRC Allows easy conversation via Internet Relay Chat.

PowWow Chat and group-surf on the Internet with other PowWow users.

TeleVox A Windows 95 Web phone for long-distance calling over the Internet.

WebBoard A multithreaded conferencing system for use with WinCGI–compliant Web servers.

Worlds Chat Assume an "avatar" body, and walk around a virtual world while interacting with other people online.

WS-IRC A feature-rich Internet Relay Chat utility that's easy to use.

MISCELLANEOUS INTERNET

PointCast A fast and informative way to get your news fix over the Internet.

RoboDUN Watches your dialing habits and creates scripts that automate Windows 95's Dial-Up Networking.

The 1995 Internet How-to Guide A collection of text files full of information about the Internet.

ClickBook Trial Version Turns any Windows file or Web page into a double-sided booklet.

Connect-Time Monitor An Internet online timer that tracks time spent on the Internet.

Decisive Survey Conducts surveys by e-mail and over the Internet.

Don't Stop Dial-Up Utility Lets your modem bypass the Windows 95 Dial-Up Networking dialog box.

Joe Access corporate intranets through Java-based browsers over the Internet.

Mathbrowser Explore MathSoft's unique live worksheets over the Internet.

NetAttache Light An Internet agent that retrieves selected Web pages at top speed so you can read them offline later.

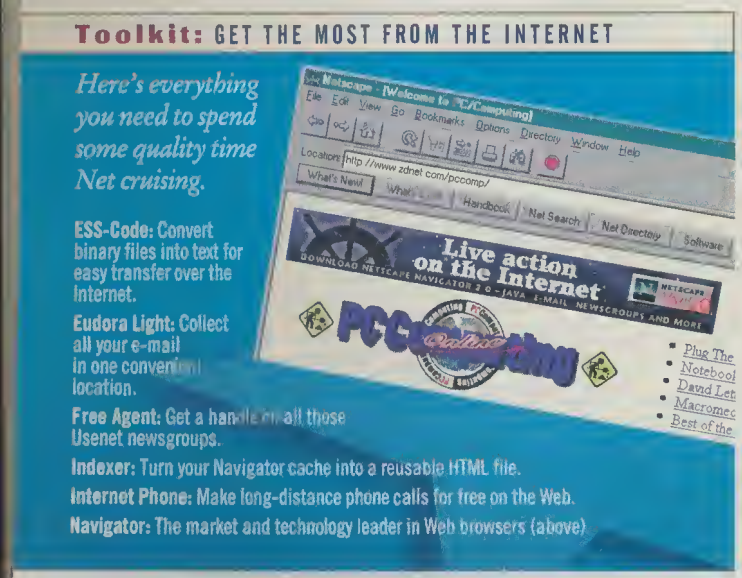
NetBook This HTML page gives you links to more than 1,000 sites in 40 categories.

Ponger Tired of getting timed-out on your Internet connections? Give Ponger a try.

SmartSurf Tracks how long you stay online and how much it costs.

TrueSpeech Internet Player Allows for rapid decoding and near real-time playback of online WAV files.

WebStor Backs up your personal data files over the Internet.



APPLICATIONS

ACCOUNTING

Medlin Accounting Shareware for Windows Comprehensive financial management for any small or medium-size business.

Account Pro for Windows Straightforward double-entry accounting program for a small business or individual.

Financial Freedom Billing Manager Basic invoice-management software for small businesses.

Hi, Finance Everything you need for planning and managing your investments, payments, personal loans, and business loans.

Invoice Store An excellent invoicing, billing, and point-of-sale system for small retail or mail-order businesses.

Medlin Windows General Ledger A full-fledged, double-entry general ledger accounting program suitable for a small or medium-size business.

Medlin Windows Payroll Track and execute payroll for a small or medium-size business.

NetPay Plus Quickly prepare payroll

PC Computing Best

checks, periodic bonuses, or commission checks.

POSi-Track A complete system for managing small-business inventories.

PERSONAL INFORMATION MANAGERS

GoldMine 3.0 for Windows 95 A demo version of the top contact manager for workgroups and mobile users.

2DO Personal Task Manager One of the best task managers we've seen.

Almanac for Windows95/Windows NT A powerful personal-information manager and calendar.

ButtonFile The PIM for those who need more than a simple name and address program, but less than a complex database manager.

IC2 A network-ready contact manager for use in sales, marketing, or customer support.

InfoRecall Pro A two-node, network-aware information manager.

IPIN PhotoCalendar Lets you use BMP, GIF, and JPEG files to display your favorite scenes or photos.

Sidekick '95 A small but mighty way to organize your life.

BUSINESS

While You Were Out Lets users send, receive, and store short notes and phone messages.

Atrex Inventory Control Full tracking of inventory levels, orders, customer accounts, and payables.

Business Plan Master A template program for building the perfect business plan.

Electronic Postal Window Calculate postal rates for all kinds of mail without visiting the post office.

EnvAddress A name, address, and phone database system that can import data in Windows Cardfile format.

FedEx Ship Track your own packages, and say goodbye to those pesky forms.

Financial Freedom Labels Quickly create and print a variety of useful mailing labels.

HotFormz Design and print forms of professional quality.

In Again, Out Again A fast way for a receptionist to know which employees are in the office.

JobHunt with Resume for Windows Lite Design your résumé, then search though a database of more than 1,000 employers.

Klick-n-View Business Cards A 32-bit, Windows 95 program for designing and printing your own business cards.

Label Oesigner Plus Lets you create labels, cards, envelopes, and more—on any printer.

Labels, Cards and More Design your own custom labels, cards, and envelopes.

MessageWorks The desktop version of those familiar pink telephone-message slips.

NotifyMe Displays your messages in a small, unobtrusive signpost that scrolls across the bottom of your screen.

Paramind Brainstorming Program A great way to brainstorm ideas on almost any topic.

PowerPlay Easily analyzes everything that affects business, from sales to customer service.

Quick Quote Generate instant, professional quotes, letters, and proposals for your business.

Rockford Easy-to-use business-card design software.

Signature Program Lets you create and insert signatures into documents.

Smart 'n Sticky An excellent program for designing and printing custom labels.

Where Is & Message Pad An information and messaging service that replaces the traditional in-out board and sticky notes.

X-Out4 Network In-Out Tracking System An electronic version of an in-out board for employees.

Zip Code Explorer 95 Use zip codes and area codes to find cities and states—and vice versa.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

TraxTime Keep track of the time you spend on an unlimited number of projects and events.

Oesk Clock A fast, easy way to keep track of the time you spend on projects for clients.

Milestones, Etc. A project-scheduling system with a graphical interface.

Power Planner Lets you zero in on specific aspects of a project.

TimeTracker for Windows An excellent application for recording timed activities.

Win Calendar A simple, easy-to-use calendar program for Windows.

COMMUNICATION

Fast Dialer A telephone-dialing program featuring alphanumeric phone-number translation, database searching, and manual dialing.

FaxMail for Windows A send-and-receive fax package that works as a stand-alone application or as a print option from any application.

Intellect A sophisticated, full-featured telephone manager for Windows.

PagerCom Lets you dial an alphanumeric pager and send a message.

PhoneWorks Control voice-automated phone systems using your PC and a Hayes-compatible modem.

RoadTalk A digital-phone system that operates on your LAN or WAN.

Walker's EasyDial A telephone dialer that can be used on a single machine or a network.

WinTel An easy-to-use communications program with advanced features like automatic redial and sequenced dialing.

PERSONAL FINANCE

ChequeBook A well-designed program designed to maintain multiple bank accounts.

401K Planner for Windows Calculates the future of your current 401K balance, as well as the future of your contributions.

Cash Express for Windows An easy-to-use, full-featured money manager for checking and savings accounts.

Maximum Exclusion Allowance Calculator Check this out if you're a teacher or someone who contributes to 403(b) tax shelters.

WinCharging A sophisticated credit-card–management system.

StockWatcher Provides updates and tracks activity for designated companies using Wayfarer technology.

Trade Sizer Helps you determine how much you should stake on each market transaction.

Wall $treet The Bottom Line A strong tracking program for virtually any investment or collectible.

WinBond-EE An easy-to-use application that lets you track and value Series E bonds.

LOAN/LEASE

Loan Calculator Plus Includes six loan-and-interest calculation programs.

Car Lease Calculator Easy-to-use tool for analyzing financial information about a car lease.

House Mouse An impressive amortization program featuring periodic and cumulative graphs of payment and equity information with immediate recalculation.

InterestCalc Provides a broad variety of useful "what-if" financial calculations.

Mortgage Oesigner Calculates nearly every type of mortgage—proposed and existing.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

Exchange Find out what your money is worth around the world by converting currency values.

M-B-A-nalyst An uncomplicated financial calculator that emulates Texas Instruments' popular BA-II Plus calculator.

Toolkit: ESSENTIAL NAVIGATOR PLUG-INS

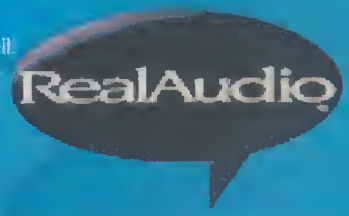
Get the most from Netscape's Navigator Web browser with these hot plug-ins.

CyberSpell: No more misspelled e-mail.

RealAudio: Add sound support to your Net cruising (right).

Shockwave: Check out the latest multimedia Web pages.

VRealm: View 3-D worlds on the Web.



STOCKS/BONDS/MUTUAL FUNDS

Capital Gainz An excellent portfolio-management system for tracking stocks and mutual funds.

Easy Street An ideal tool for investors who retrieve stock-market information from CompuServe.

Fund Manager for Windows 95 A portfolio-management application to help individuals monitor and analyze their investments.

APPLICATION ADD-INS

ADOBE PAGEMAKER

Style Report PageMaker plug-in that helps you produce a report of your document styles.

Additions Pallet Gives you access to

your most frequently used Additions in PageMaker.

Fraemz Proportional Borders Library 1 PageMaker plug-in that contains fancy, corner, multiple line, square, rectangle, brick, arrow, coupon, and other borders.

Fraemz Proportional Borders Library 2 PageMaker plug-in that contains banner, Gothic, Southwest, certificate, sport, animal, and other borders.

Fraemz Proportional Borders Library 3 PageMaker plug-in that contains geometric, ethnic, arrow, sun, circle, and other borders.

Style Groups PageMaker plug-in that imports and exports your styles as template-independent style groups.

Tabit PageMaker plug-in that defines multiple tab rulers.

Type Styles Group together style and individual text attributes with a description, and place them on a floating palette.

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP

The Black Box Demo One working filter from a set of ten Black Box filters, as well as sample images.

MicroFrontier Pattern Library 1 Photoshop plug-ins that include several gradient patterns and tiles to use with two colors of your choice.

MicroFrontier Pattern Library 2 Plug-ins that include gradient patterns and your choice of colors.

MicroFrontier Pattern Workshop A Photoshop plug-in with textures and patterns that you can easily fill and paint.

COREL

CMX Viewer Lets you view Corel CMX files over the Internet.

Corel Ventura Filters A set of updated filter files for Corel's Ventura 5.

CorelWeb Data, 30-day trial Provides live connections to back-end databases through CorelWeb.

Word to Corel Ventura Filters Lets you convert documents from Microsoft's Word to Corel's Ventura 5 formats.

COREL WORDPERFECT

WordPerfect Internet Publisher Turn your WordPerfect 6.1 documents into Web-ready HTML pages with this popular utility.

The File Doctor for WordPerfect 6.x No matter what the problem, the doctor's in to diagnose and fix corrupted document files.

PerfectOffice 3.0 Update A patch to fix most of the problems that arise when using WordPerfect 6.1 under Windows 95.

Propose It A slick utility for producing and managing proposals for WordPerfect 5.1 or Microsoft's Works 2.0.

RabbitHelp for WordPerfect 6.1 Provides guidance for users who would like more information than what's in the standard help files.

SplitVu Use this app to view and edit two different parts of a document simultaneously.

WordPerfect 6.x for Windows Macros Macros and chapters from macro-master Gordon McComb's book.

WordPerfect Macros Forty-six macros for WordPerfect 6.0 for DOS and Windows as well as WordPerfect 7.0 for Windows.

LOTUS 1-2-3

Power Windows A macro spreadsheet that lets you automatically view your directory items.

123Power An electronic hypertext help file with tons of information about the macro language in Lotus's 1-2-3.

Lotus 1-2-3 Converter to Microsoft Word Converts Lotus's 1-2-3 spreadsheets into Microsoft's Word 6.0 documents.

Personal Info Manager Adds features to 1-2-3 like Phone Book, Appointment Book, Check Book, Money Manager, and Note Taker.

Total Investor for Lotus 1-2-3 Use it with 1-2-3 to track securities, transactions, and chart stocks.

LOTUS AMI PRO/WORD PRO

Word Pro for Windows 3.1 Try out Lotus's Word Pro for 30 days.

AmiWeb For those who just can't let go of Lotus's Ami Pro, a freeware toolkit for creating HTML documents.

Lotus Word Pro Training Courseware Training software for anyone making the move from WordPerfect to Word Pro.

LOTUS NOTES

InterNotes Web Publisher Lets you publish Lotus Notes documents on the Web.

Lotus Notes Budget Planning Application add-in for users of Lotus's NotesSuite.

Lotus Notes Contact Manager Application add-in for NotesSuite users.

Lotus Notes Customer Suggestion Application add-in for users of NotesSuite.

Lotus Notes Expense Reports Application add-in for NotesSuite users.

Lotus Notes Internet Cookbook (for Notes Release 3) Access all the information available on the Net without leaving Notes.

Lotus Notes Internet Cookbook (for Notes Release 4) Accesses all the information available on the Net without leaving Notes.

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Lotus Notes Presentation Library and Review Application add-in for users of NotesSuite.

Lotus Notes R4 Mail Screen Saver and Wallpaper A must-have for Notes Mail junkies.

Lotus Notes Sales Proposals Application add-in for users of NotesSuite.

Lotus Notes Suite Review Application add-in for users of NotesSuite.

Lotus Notes Suite SmartMaster Library Application add-in for users of NotesSuite.

Lotus Notes Workgroup Documents Application add-in for users of NotesSuite.

MISCELLANEOUS LOTUS ADD-INS

Freelance Mobile Screen Show Player Show Lotus's Freelance Graphics 96 presentations on any PC running Windows 95 or Windows NT.

Freelance Search and Replace Search Freelance Graphics presentation files for specific text strings.

Lotus ScreenCam Player Allows you to view demo ScreenCam movies.

MICROSOFT ACCESS

Contract Master Contains everything you need to manage contracts in Access.

Access ELF A natural-language query interface for Access databases.

Access Export Use this library in Access 2.0 to export objects and other data from your databases.

AllFormsCompiler Compiles all the forms available in Access's database.

Command Builder Speeds up Access's basic development projects.

Internet Assistant for Access 95 Output data stored in Access or any ODBC-compliant database to an intranet or the Internet.

mDBConvert Easily change the structure of your Access databases.

MDB Maintenance Wizard Perform maintenance on several Access database files simultaneously.

Membership Manager Track membership data for your association with this multiuser system.

PhoneFacts 95 Helps link Access,

Toolkit: MUST-HAVE WINDOWS UTILITIES

Windows 95 is pretty good right out of the box, but you can make it even better with these great utilities.

Auto Task for Windows: Automate common tasks such as backups and disk defragmentation.

Plug-In: Add several features to Windows, including nested folders and enhanced system sounds.

TrackIt for Windows 95 and NT: Keep an eye on your system resources before they cause problems.

Visual File Manager: Take control of your files with this Macintosh Finder clone.

WinZip for Windows 95: Easily compress and decompress files to save disk space (above).

Andromedia Software Series 1 Photoshop filters that let you create multidimensional images with prisms, rainbows, and stars.

Filters, Plug-ins & Others Dozens of Photoshop filters and plug-ins.

Jetsoft Art-Scan Professional Photoshop plug-in that helps you expertly capture images from scanned documents.

Exchange, Schedule+, and Project to manage projects and tasks.

Shipment Tracker Automatically fills in UPS shipment log forms and packing labels in Access.

SQL Generator An Access 2.0 add-in that helps you generate better SQL code.

Telephone Address and Contact Database Contact database for phone numbers and addresses in Access 7.0.

MICROSOFT EXCEL

Internet Assistant for Microsoft Excel for Windows 95 Microsoft's wizard quickly and easily converts cells to HTML tables.

401K.XLM for Excel 4 and 5 A macro that generates loan-payment schedules for 401K loans.

Baarnes Template Wizard A Windows help file that teaches you how to create templates in Excel.

Calendar Maker for Excel An improvement on the calendar template included with Excel 5.0.

Oeprec8 for Excel An Excel macro that generates depreciation schedules for tax and book purposes.

Dialog to Macro Use this add-in to generate macros based on dialog sheets in VBA.

Excel-to-Web Select your cells and watch this template create a 3-D HTML table for you.

File Conversion Wizard Converts Lotus's 1-2-3 and Corel's Quattro Pro files into Excel files.

I'm No Accountant Perform single-entry accounting in well-designed workbooks.

Income Property Analyzer Evaluate the profitability of your income properties with this work sheet.

ObjMod.xls This automatic module-creation tool creates Excel spreadsheets using drawings or VBA code.

Prime 5 for Excel Add useful features and shortcuts to Microsoft's Excel.

Savico 50 Automatically save your Excel 5.0 spreadsheets and workbooks by clicking on the AutoSave icon.

SciencePak Try these routines to do a variety of scientific calculations in Excel.

Tax Planner Use the scenarios in this tax-planner worksheet to view your tax strategies.

Xlsexe Compile Excel 4.0 and 5.0 spreadsheets into fully executable programs.

MICROSOFT WORD

WOPR 95 A super collection of add-ins for Word, including Booklet Maker, Enveloper, Address Book, and WordBasic functions.

Ant for Word 6.0 Demos Gives you a template to create HTML documents using Word 6.0.

ASAP WordPower Extensive set of add-ins for Word, including alarms, a CD player, and a file manager.

Bill Log Use Word to track charges and payments for your business.

Calendar Customize this Word document, then print and distribute your calendar.

CD Player for Word A Windows 95 utility for Word 7.0 that lets you play your favorite audio CDs in the background.

Contract Template A template to create well-prepared contracts.

Create New File Easily create new documents in Word with this FileNew template.

Faxer for Word 6.0 An easy way to send a fax from Word 6.0.

File Manager Jr. 95 A file and folder manager add-in for Word 7.0.

Fileware Handy set of functions, including Delete, Rename, Move, Copy, Make Directory.

FyleBox Arrange your documents in familiar folder styles with FyleBox.

Grammar Slammer Gives you real clues about how to improve your writing style.

GT HTML Macros A set of freeware macros for Word 6.0 that create HTML documents.

Impab for Windows 95 Imports ASCII addresses into any personal address book.

Internet Assistant for Word Lets users create and edit documents for the Internet and corporate Web sites.

Laminate Card An extensive collection of templates for many of the Avery form and label styles.

Microsoft Word Concept Virus Fix Zap that pesky macro virus with this quick fix.

Microsoft Word Type Library Use this U.S. Object model type library to make your cross-application programming easier.

Personal Address Manager A Word 7.0 template to manage your personal address lists.

Proposal Generation System Here's a nifty prototype of a proposal generator for Word and Excel.

Remove Spaces Macro This macro quickly removes excess spaces from Word documents.

Screenplay Styler A template formatted for writing screenplays with Word 6.0.

SuperSet Use this group of Word 6.0 tools to find and back up files, and retrieve and split documents.

Talking Template for Word A program with templates to assist in making Word documents with embedded speech elements.

Top 25 Macros for WinWord 6 This collection automates almost everything in Word 6.0.

Trademark Practice Software Use this template to prepare an application for trademark registration.

TSS WordContact A combination address book, phone dialer, and form-letter generator that ties into Word 6.0.

Toolkit: KEEP YOUR SYSTEM SECURE

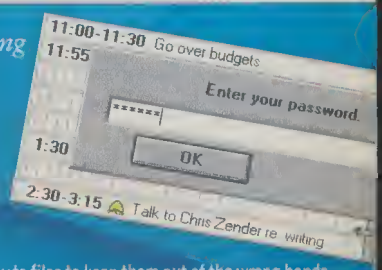
Keep your files safe from prying eyes and damaging viruses.

Metz Lock: Safeguards your networked systems from unauthorized use (right).

Password Generator: Automatically creates safe passwords.

VirusScan for Windows 95: Finds and eliminates thousands of deadly viruses.

Windows Encryption Toolkit: Encrypts private files to keep them out of the wrong hands.



Watermark Add watermarks to your Word 6.0 documents.

WB20oc Open any file with unencrypted macros and convert them into a document for editing and printing.

WideOpen Lets you use long filenames under Windows 3.*x*.

WOPR 6.0 A super collection of add-ins for Word 6.0.

Word to Access Easily transfer data from Word to Access.

WordLink Lets you insert data from Access, dBase, FoxPro, Paradox, and Btrieve into a Word 6.*x* file.

WordMark Lite Takes Word's tables of contents and turns them into Adobe's Acrobat bookmark file.

Word Viewer for Windows 95 Lets you view documents created with any version of Word.

Wordware Great collection of utilities and tools for Word users.

MISCELLANEOUS MICROSOFT ADD-INS

PointPlus Tightly compresses and publishes your Microsoft PowerPoint presentations on the Web.

PowerPoint Internet Assistant Transforms Microsoft PowerPoint presentations to HTML pages to publish on the Web.

Schedule+ Internet Assistant Publish your schedule on the Web; it's great for intranets.

ScheduleToPAB Simplifies the transfer of fax contacts between Schedule+ and Exchange.

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION ADD-INS

AutoReports Lets you create batch transactions for reports so you don't have to select each report individually.

Charm XT Release 1 A Quark Xtension wish list of new features, including Align-It, SmartSize-It, Repeat-It, Insert-It, Box-It, Style-It, and Stretch-It.

DataBase Browser Browse, query, sort, and print data from Access, dBase, FoxPro, Paradox, and Btrieve database files.

dtSearch for Windows Document-retrieval program that features full text retrieval for all the major word processors.

Env Keeps your database address clean, exports to your word processor, and uses special printer codes, too.

Graphmatica for Windows Draws, displays, exports, and prints math and trigonometry curves.

GroupWare Support Center Utility Helps remedy Novell Shared Code 2.*x* quirks, such as combining multiple shared-code directories.

GroupWise Integration Module Version 2 of GroupWise's NetWare Admin Snap-in module.

Impromptu Unifies querying and reporting in one interface that provides views of data.

Milestones Viewer Allows anyone to view Kidasa Milestones charts on

Because bad power takes
make sure new Back-UPS

Guaranteed Protection against all power problems, on all power paths, for your PC and peripherals.

Back-UPS Office's compact design installs easily on desktop, floor, or mounts to wall. Its ninety-degree plug fits flush against the wall.

Integrates the Security of a Surge Suppressor with the Power of a UPS
Back-UPS Office provides enough outlets to protect your entire system. Six outlets guard your hardware with full time surge protection. Three of the six outlets provide instantaneous battery backup to keep your system from crashing in the event of a brownout or blackout.

Battery Replacement Warning Prevents Downtime
An LED signals when the Back-UPS Office's internal self-test finds the battery near the end of its life. You have 6-8 weeks replacement warning. Batteries typically last 3-6 years, and are user-replaceable.

Site-Wiring Fault Indicator
Without a proper ground, most surge protection is useless. Back-UPS Office alerts you to wiring problems such as missing ground and reversed polarity, two common wiring mistakes which otherwise would require an electrician's visit to diagnose.

PC World 20 Best Upgrades

APC products have won more awards for reliability than all other UPS vendors combined.

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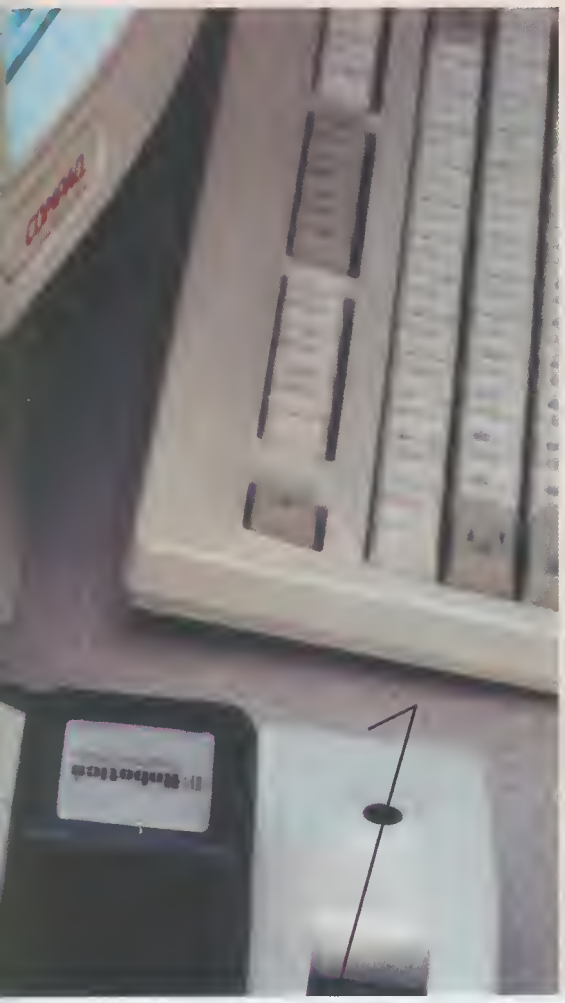
nultiple paths to your PC, ffice™ gets there first



Protect ME! with APC

Bringing up the issue is awkward, but inevitable: You have a better chance of winning the lottery than of escaping power problems. Sooner or later, every computer user learns about surges, brownouts, spikes and blackouts. Unfortunately, most learn the hard way. Power problems are the single largest cause of computer data loss and hardware damage. If a power sag makes your modem drop the line while you're downloading a file from the Internet, or causes your keyboard to lock before you've saved work, you lose time, money and end up spending another late night at the office to meet your deadlines.

Only Back-UPS Office provides single device Multipath™ protection for all your equipment

The Multipath™ Power Protection Advantage	Traditional Surge Protector	Traditional UPS	Back-UPS Office
Protected Paths			
AC	•	•	•
Data	•		•
Phone	•		•
Total Outlets			
Number of Black Outlets			2
Protection from:			
Surges	•	•	•
Spikes	•	•	•
Blackouts		•	•
Brownouts		•	•
Typical Run-time at Power with Pentium 100 w/15" monitor		10	10
Battery Backed Outlets			
PC		•	•
Monitor		•	•
Storage Devices/Zip Drives		•	•
Full-time surge protection for:			
Fax/Modem	•		•
Laser Printer	•		•
Speakers	•		•
Network protection for:			
Internet or Network			•

Traditionally protecting all your equipment meant buying both a surge suppressor and a UPS. Even then only your AC line was protected. New Back-UPS Office protects all the paths to all your equipment.

Multiple peripherals and data lines to and from your system are vital, but dangerous. Without them, you can't do your job. However, plugging a phone line into your computer doubles your vulnerability to power problems; add any peripheral, and it triples. Even if your computer's AC power-line is shielded, when a surge hits an unprotected peripheral, it can blaze down serial and data lines, and toast your expensive PC.

Only Back-UPS Office provides true common ground protection

Figure 1

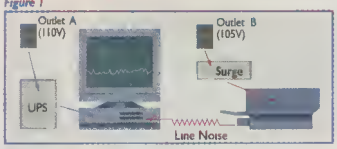


Figure 2

Until now, protection for your entire system required several devices. But multi-device protection can leave you vulnerable to line noise and unwanted data glitches created by voltage differentials between outlets.

Back-UPS Office provides reliable, true common ground Multipath™ protection for your entire system. Instantaneous battery ensures uninterrupted operation of your onitor and external storage devices. Full-ge suppression spreads a safety net any remaining integrated peripherals, dems, printers, speakers, and phone . Back-UPS Office's convenient ife™ outlet spacing handles all size plugs.

PS Office protection means true ery peripheral, and instantaneous m and O/S from crashing. It means surge suppressor with the power of a

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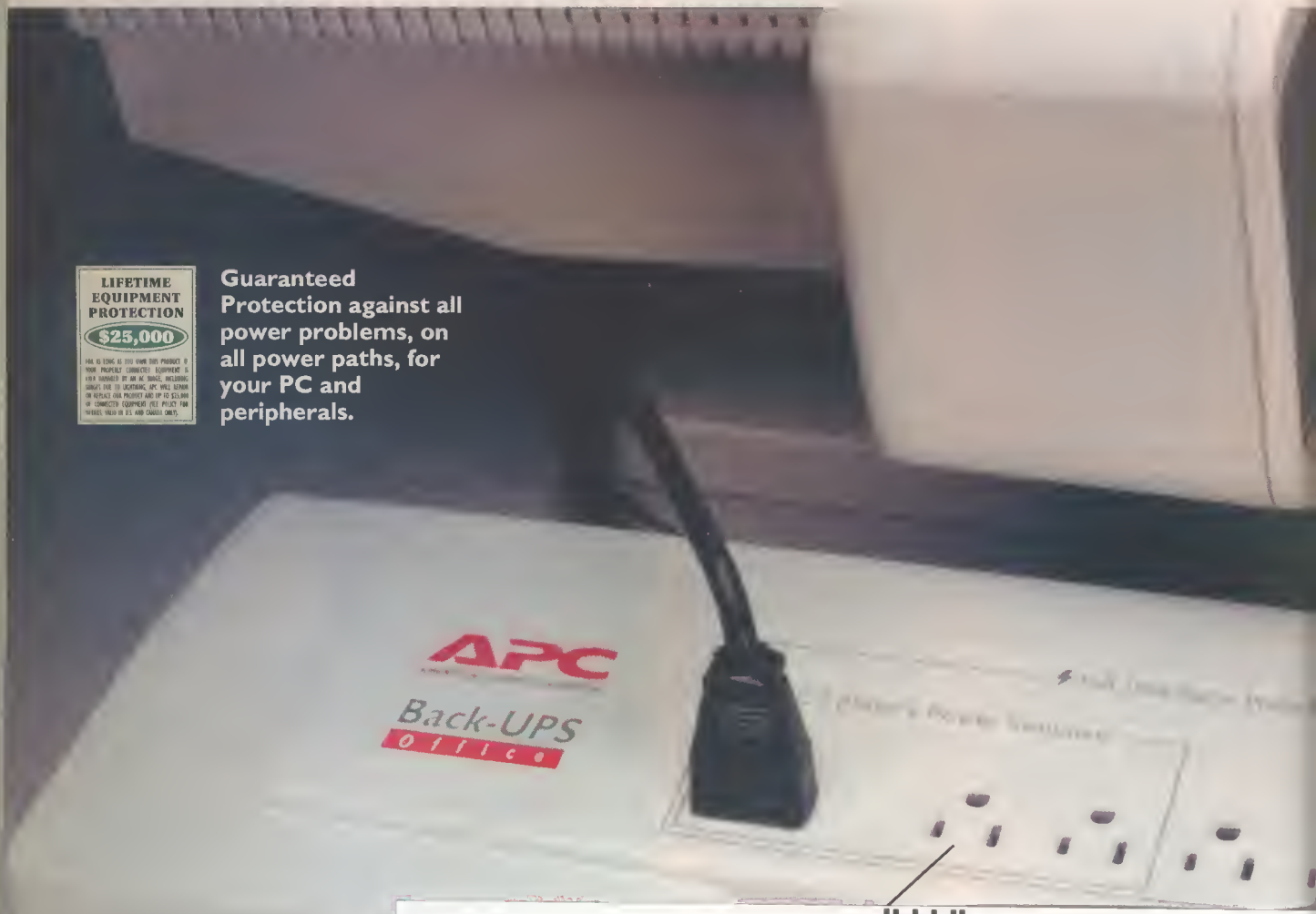

LIFETIME EQUIPMENT PROTECTION
$25,000

Guaranteed Protection against all power problems, on all power paths, for your PC and peripherals.

Back-UPS Office design installs ea desktop, floor, o wall. Its ninety-d fits flush against

PC World 20 Best Upgrades

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multiple paths to your PC, Office™ gets there first

Protect ME! with APC

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AC	•	•	•
Data			•
Phone			•
Total Outlets	3		8
Number of Block Outlets			2
Protection from:			
Surges	•	•	•
Spikes	•	•	•
Blackouts		•	•
Brownouts		•	•
Typical Runtime in Minutes			
with Pentium 100 w/15" monitor		10	10
Battery backup for:			
PC		•	•
Monitor		•	•
Storage Devices/Zip Drives		•	•
Full-time surge protection for:			
Fax/Modem	•		•
Laser Printer	•		•
Speakers	•		•
Detailed protection for:			
Internet or Network			•

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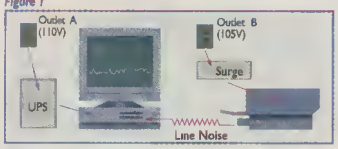


Figure 2

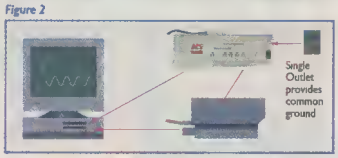


Figure 1: voltage differentials between multiple outlets create line noise and data glitches.
Figure 2: Back-UPS Office's common ground design eliminates the danger of voltage differentials.

Until now, protection for your entire system required several devices. But multi-device protection can leave you vulnerable to line noise and unwanted data glitches created by voltage differentials between outlets.

Back-UPS Office provides reliable, true common ground Multipath™ protection for your entire system. Instantaneous battery backup ensures uninterrupted operation of your CPU, monitor and external storage devices. Full-time surge suppression spreads a safety net around any remaining integrated peripherals, like modems, printers, speakers, and phone systems. Back-UPS Office's convenient BlockSafe™ outlet spacing handles all size plugs.

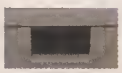
Back-UPS Office protection means true Multipath™ protection, clean, safe power to every peripheral, and instantaneous battery backup to keep your cutting edge system and O/S from crashing. It means protection for less by integrating the security of a surge suppressor with the power of a UPS, guaranteed up to $25,000.

Protect yourself before you kick yourself. Get your new Back-UPS Office today (list price: $179.99), or call APC for a FREE 60-page catalog!

Ask for APC award-winning power protection wherever top-quality computer products are sold.

Convenient BlockSafe™ Outlet Spacing
Back-UPS Office's outlets are spaced to accommodate all size plugs, including large transformer blocks. You don't have to sacrifice the use of any of your outlets if you use block plugs

Internet Ready Fax/Modem Protection
Back-UPS Office's built-in phone line/10 Base-T network cable surge protection prevents data line surges from damaging internal and external modems, motherboards, input/output cards, and other system components.



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the Web or an intranet.

My Personal Diary for Windows 95 Keep a diary on your computer that's password-protected and encrypted for privacy.

PaperMaster TD Paper-management software for home and office that puts a filing cabinet in your PC.

PC-Track View the orbits of as many as 300 satellites at once.

Prime 5 Lets you integrate Excel, Word, and Polaris's Packrat.

Quattro Pro 6 for Windows Update Run Lotus's 1-2-3 version 2.01 keystroke macros in Quattro Pro.

Quicken Windows DDE Development Kit Everything you need to access Quicken data via DDE.

Quicksilver Use it with Micrografx's ABC Graphics Suite to create interactive graphics for Web pages.

QuickStock Automatically updates your stock portfolios from America Online Winsock to Quicken.

Time to Win DLL A collection of more than 250 routines for users of Microsoft's Office 95.

Visio Get additional SmartShapes, stencils, templates, sample code, and add-ins for developing custom Visio solutions.

Toolkit: GIVE WINDOWS A FACE-LIFT

Why stick with that boring old Windows interface? These tools add dazzle to your desktop.

Loupe for Windows: Get a closer look at your screen with this handy magnifier (right).

Motion Icons & Cursors: Glamorize your mouse movements with dozens of animated cursors.

Perfect Screens: Add to your desktop workspace with this "virtual screen" manager.

Random Acts: Automatically reassigns wallpaper files, sounds, and color schemes.

Winshade: Get unruly windows out of your way by rolling them up into their title bars.

UTILITIES

COMPRESSION

WinZip for Windows 95 The update of the best data-compression and -archiving utility around.

Drag and Zip Compresses files, checks them for viruses, and provides links to popular Web browsers.

MicroHelp Zip Allows you to zip and unzip files in just one step.

PKZip The mainstay program for compressing and decompressing ZIP and self-extracting ZIP files under DOS.

PKZip for Windows PKZip data compression makes the move to Windows.

QuinZip-Windows Archive Manager Complete ZIP-compatible compression utility for Windows.

WinLite Compresses programs in Windows to save disk space.

WinZip Self Extractor Easily create self-extracting ZIP files.

ZIP Explorer Pro for Windows 95 A shell extension that expands on Windows 95's Explorer concept to cover ZIP and TAR file management.

Zip When for Windows Set the file date and time of a ZIP archive to that of the most recent file in the archive.

ZipExplorer Quickly opens compressed ZIP archives and conveniently displays them as folders on your hard disk.

DESKTOP UTILITIES

Any Folder Shell Extension Add an Any Folder–Other Folder option to your right-click context menu in Windows 95.

Plug-In This kitchen sink of Program Manager add-ins gives users title-bar displays, nested folders, and more.

WinImage Lets you duplicate all disk formats, from 720K to Microsoft's highest-density formats.

Animal Patrol A cute assistant with parading animals that perform various Windows functions.

BackDesk An adaptable suite of desktop utilities, such as application-launching menus.

Dashboard 95 Launch files, monitor system resources, or play a quick game of video poker.

DeskList A quick-and-easy way to access frequently used Windows 95 applications.

Diskers Fast utility to copy files to and from disks, create disk images, and more.

DocMan A 32-bit application that adds power and flexibility to the Windows 95 Documents list.

Loupe for Windows Creates an onscreen jeweler's loupe that magnifies anything under it.

Magnify Increase the size of any part of your display under its magnifier.

Metz Task Manager An easy way to launch applications, manage files, and monitor your system.

TDM Uses a drawer/folder/card system to keep track of text files.

WinGD Creates an icon that accesses shortcuts to your favorite folders.

FILE FINDERS

File Ferret Searches across multiple drives to find files that you specify by name or content.

Directory Compare for Windows Displays side-by-side file listings of two selected directories and highlights identical files with different dates.

dtSearch Full-featured text retrieval compatible with all of the major word processors.

File Finder for Windows A powerful, easy-to-use file-search program.

Search and Replace More powerful than the Search and Replace functions in Windows 95's file Finder.

TellMe Quickly retrieves any information from files on your system, then launches the proper application.

FILE MANAGERS

Folders Create subgroups within Program Manager group windows. Features password protection, folders, and subfolders.

Visual File Manager An excellent file-management system that imitates the look of Apple's Macintosh Finder.

Directory Freedom Move, copy, tag, and view files; create and view archived files; and change file time, creation date, and other attributes with this utility.

Drag and File A hybrid of Microsoft's Explorer and File Manager that offers an alternative command shell.

DriveA Use this with File Manager to copy directories and files by dragging and dropping them to the Drive A icon.

DriveMan Places a tray icon on your desktop to allow quick access to your hard drives and other storage devices.

File Manager StepUp for Windows NT Dramatically improves Windows NT's File Manager with command histories and right-click menus.

Instant File Access Use long filenames in programs that don't support them.

LFNsNow Assign long filenames to files created with old Windows 3.*x* applications.

Name-It Add long filenames to your Windows 3.*x* applications and documents.

Norton Navigator File Manager Trial Edition An easy-to-use alternative to Windows 95's File Manager and Explorer apps.

PCSweep 32 for Windows 95/NT Performs many disk, directory, and file-management functions for Windows 95 or Windows NT.

PicaView View and organize image files directly from File Manager.

Turbo Browser for Windows 95 A handy way to view files before you open them.

Wayfarer Replaces the Windows 3.1's Program Manager and adds several new functions, including command histories.

WindX Adds long-filename support to Windows 3.*x* and DOS apps.

MEMORY MANAGERS

TrackIt for Windows 95 and NT Monitors background operations, tracks system resources, and defragments Windows memory.

MemInfo 4.0 Plus Performs several memory-related tasks to keep your system running.

PC Computing Best

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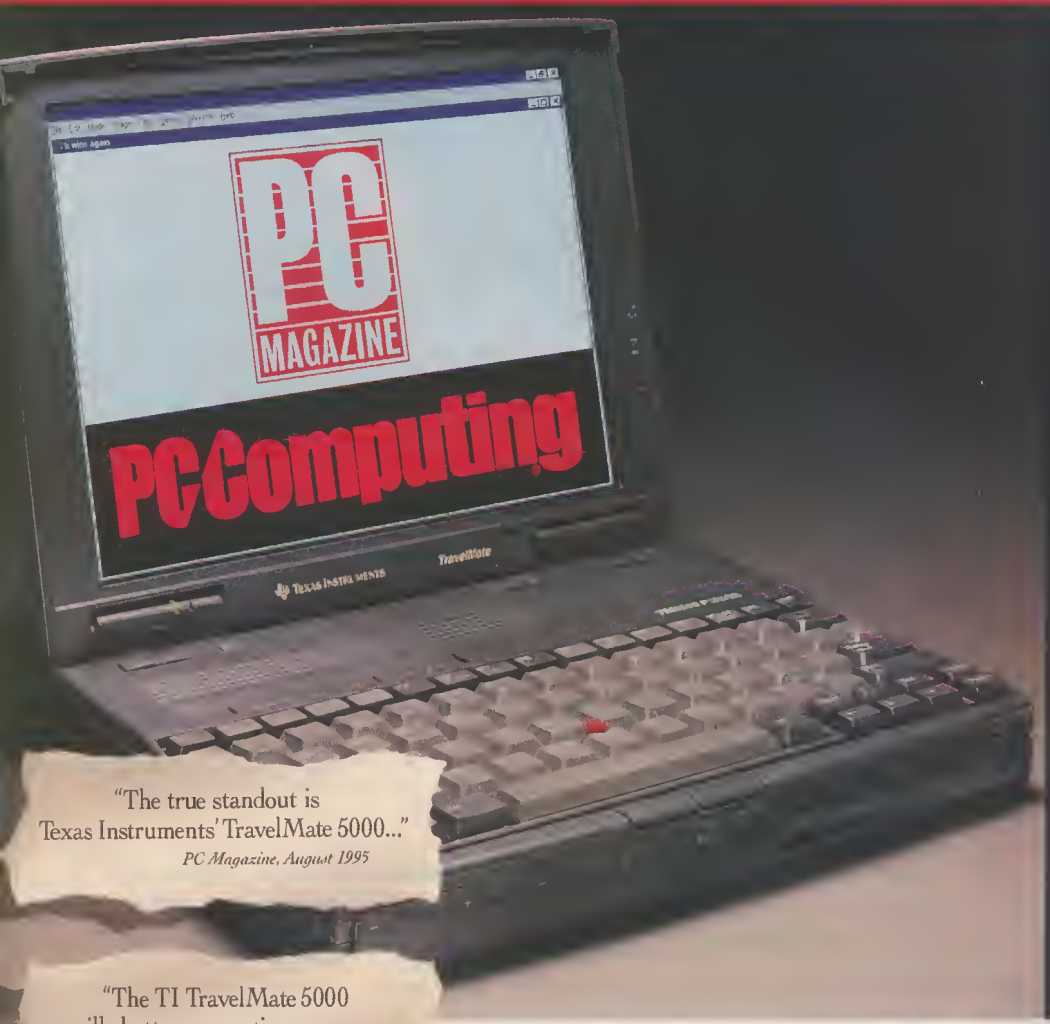

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PC Magazine, August 1995

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PC Computing, August 1995

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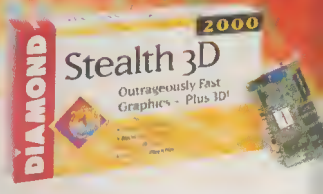

Prepare to push your PC into the next dimension with Stealth 3D from Diamond. The first in a superior line of affordable Plug and Play 3D accelerators with outrageously fast 2D graphics, vivid 3D animation and striking MPEG video playback—from the market leader in high-performance graphics subsystems. Stealth 3D dramatically improves graphics-intensive business applications, action games and overall system performance through greater resolution, millions of colors and extreme speeds. With optimum 64-bit graphics acceleration, lightning-fast response rates, Silicon Magic RAM technology, S3's ViRGE chip and Diamond's optimized drivers and InControl Tools—you'll gain a whole new perspective on speed. Stealth 3D runs under Windows® 95, Windows® NT 3.51 and DOS operating systems and will be compatible with future 3D applications for Windows 95 using Microsoft® DirectX APIs. Plus, it comes bundled with Interplay's Descent™ II and Sony's Destruction Derby™. So, if you're ready to speed in three dimensions contact Diamond at http://www.diamondmm.com and get everything you need to launch into the future of 3D graphics acceleration, today.

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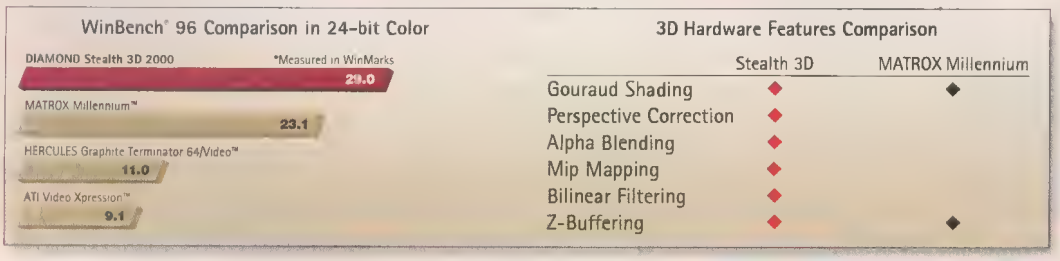

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MemoryAnalyst Traces the status of your computer's memory while Windows is running.

MemPro 95 Performs an assortment of memory-management functions, then unloads itself to save system resources.

APPLETS/ACCESSORY REPLACEMENTS

TimeWizard 95 Helps you track your project time and export your data to Microsoft's Access.

CDTask Gain quick access to your CD-ROM drive's controls.

IconScout Makes it easy for you to change icons on your desktop folders and applications.

Microangelo Lets you browse, manage, create, and edit static and animated icons.

ShoveIt Prevents window control points from being covered by toolbars and Taskbars.

SmartBoard Save multiple Clipboard files to disk for retrieval later.

Take Command/32 Brings the power and convenience of 4DOS and 4OS/2 commands to Windows 95 and Windows NT users.

Vulcan Notes 95 Create as many as 100 virtual sticky notes on your desktop.

Win PostPad 96 This Windows Notepad replacement puts an icon in the system tray for your own version of sticky notes.

WinShade Rolls up any window into its title bar to save screen space.

INTERFACE ENHANCERS

SmilerShell for Windows 95 Controls your Windows 95 Calendar, quickly launches apps, and keeps Windows Explorer in line.

BarClock Adds a clock, program-launch icons, and other features to the unused space in your title bars.

Drop Launcher Provides a drag-and-drop icon for just about any application.

Elbow Grease for Windows Places a button bar on your desktop that can launch as many as 40 different applications.

EzDesk A Windows 95 Taskbar notification icon that manages your desktop icon layout.

FindFolder Type just part of a folder name and watch the file appear on your desktop.

impVWM Create virtual desktops to expand your desktop space.

Masquerade for Windows 95 Places all your setup options in one convenient window.

MouseKey Lets you assign commands to keyboard and mouse-button combinations.

Perfect Screens Create any number of virtual screens on your Windows 95 desktop.

PowerDesk A collection of useful utilities for streamlining Windows 95.

StratoMin 95 Specify a single hotkey that automatically minimizes all open windows.

TaskView for Windows 95/Windows NT View and manage the active tasks currently running on your computer.

Whiskers Programs your mouse buttons to activate hundreds of Windows routines.

Windesk Set icon spacing, key and mouse speeds, wallpaper patterns, and more.

Windows Restart 96 A simple, elegant way to quickly perform several Windows 95 system functions.

WinLifeInsurance A unique set of Windows utilities including a keystroke saver, a trash can, an eyestrain reminder, a privacy saver, and a hotkey setup.

AUTOMATION

Auto Task for Windows Schedules tasks to execute at preset times or specified intervals.

What I Did Records every keystroke and mouse-click you make, then plays them back.

Autoback Automates the features of Windows NT's backup program.

AutoKey Automatically saves your work in progress—in any application.

AutoMail Uses the System Agent in Microsoft's Plus pack to schedule background dial-ups of your mailbox at specified times.

ClockMan95 Automates mainframe data downloads, backups, and virus scans, plus keeps you on time with handy reminders.

CronJr. Uses batch files and a text-based schedule file to automate routine operations such as starting a tape backup.

Custom Mouse Cursor Creator Gain extra control over your cursor's appearance and actions.

GoHome An excellent utility that lets you schedule as many as 20 programs to run unattended.

Macro Mania A powerful macro program that records and plays back keystrokes to Windows programs.

Metz Scheduler Use this for scheduling your computer applications to launch while you work, play, or sleep.

DpalisRobot Allows you to run applications, manage files, and report progress by means of a network message.

Random Acts Chooses a surprise mix from your favorite wallpaper files, sounds, screen savers, and color schemes.

Talking Clock A Windows talking clock and event launcher that can start up the Windows CD player.

FILE REMOVERS

Remove-It for Windows 95 Safely and accurately removes any 32-bit or 16-bit application.

Soft Manager Tracks and uninstalls programs under Windows 95 and Windows 3.1.

Space Hound Clean up your hard drive and get rid of duplicate files.

Twinfind Finds and eliminates disk-eating duplicate files.

Win Dupe Zaps duplicate files to free up disk space.

FILE VIEWERS

Quick View Plus View, print, and manage files in virtually any format without launching or having the applications on your desktop.

Access Ready-to-Run Viewer Share your Access data with users who don't have Access loaded.

Autoread Opens large text files and includes features such as searching, indexing, and online-help creation.

DocView View, convert, rotate, and invert documents and images.

Drag and View Windows 95 file viewer that supports a wide range of file types.

Excel Viewer for Windows 95 Easily view Excel workbooks and spreadsheets without having Excel on your system.

PowerPoint Viewer for Windows 95 An easy way to share PowerPoint presentations with others on the Internet.

WinBrowse Lite Quickly view files created in a variety of popular database formats.

Word Viewer Lets anybody view Microsoft's Word documents without having Word on their system.

ZR File Works Omega Manipulates, views, and examines files in dozens of formats.

FILE CONVERTERS

HTML Transit Converts and reformats word-processor and page-layout files to HTML.

HTMStrip Retrieves text information from the HTML files stored in your Web browser's local cache.

MDBGuru This slick utility converts Access databases to Visual Basic code.

Quail Stripper Lets you strip HTML codes from HTML files to create clean text files.

SoundX and Metaphone Control Provides algorithms that convert words or names to codes that represent how the words or codes will sound.

TXTQ Utilities Converts mail-reader messages back to QWK packets.

FONT MANAGEMENT

FontLook View and resize fonts in point sizes ranging anywhere from 8 to 240.

Toolkit: BUSINESS APPS FOR ALL REASONS

Sometimes you don't need a $200 program to get the job done.

Electronic Postal Window: Calculate postal rates for your business correspondence.

JobHunt with Resume for Windows Lite: Write up your résumé, then look for a new career in a database of more than 1,000 employers.

Klick-n-View Business Cards: Design and print your own business cards (above).

Signature Program: Create and insert signatures into all kinds of documents.

Type Designer Design completely new fonts or modify existing ones. A must-have for font aficionados.

FontBook Print specimen or sample sheets of all the typefaces on your system.

Fonter A wonderful TrueType and Adobe font manager for Windows.

FontLook 95 Lets you view all your available ANSI and text fonts.

FontReview Preview any TrueType font and quickly view a sample sentence or a whole character set.

Odd Job A collection of utilities including a well-designed tool for managing all your fonts.

Printer's Apprentice A superior utility for managing TrueType and Adobe TypeOne fonts.

Viewer95 Provides a slider bar to adjust the point size of any font.

PRINTER UTILITIES

PrintSwitch 95 Change your default printer, paper orientation, or setup with a quick click on the mouse button or a user-defined hotkey.

Ecopad32 for Windows Print multiple pages on just one sheet of paper to save trees and natural resources.

Print Agent Turns a Windows 95 PC into a Novell remote-print server.

Text to Paper for Windows Print text files of any kind, with total control over formatting and layout.

TEXT EDITORS

Mega Edit Lets you open up to 25 files at the same time, and export them in DOS, Macintosh, or Unix formats.

Breeze for Windows An all-in-one program for creating stand-alone electronic books.

EnVision Publisher A publisher for those who want to quickly create flawless newsletters, books, and greeting cards.

Gator Edit A powerful text editor that handles as many as 100 files simultaneously.

HyperRead Generator Lets you easily create, read, and distribute hypertext documents.

Page After Page A first-class word processor that competes with the best available commercial programs.

Qread A feature-rich text editor that's powerful and easy to use.

The Raven A great tool for anyone who frequently reuses specific blocks of text.

Simply Help An excellent way to create help files, customer lists, and electronic books.

SuperEdit A Windows text editor that provides you with dozens of handy accessories.

TextPad 32-Bit Lets you edit multiple files and perform highly complex file comparisons.

UltraEdit-32 A comprehensive Windows 95 and Windows NT text and hexadecimal editor.

WordExpress for Windows 95 A word processor and desktop publisher in one.

ENCRYPTION

Encrypt-it for Windows 95 Encrypt and decrypt your files using a simple key combination.

Global Security Lets you secure data using a two-level encryption scheme.

Windows Encryption Toolkit Encryption and protection application that keeps prying eyes out of your files.

Toolkit: BOOST YOUR GRAPHICS POWER

VIRUS

VirusScan 95 Native 32-bit virus scanning for Windows 95 desktops.

Dr. Solomon's FindVirus A DOS-based antivirus scanner from Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit.

NetShield Make sure your NetWare network is virus-free.

NetShieldNT Provides real-time virus scanning for Windows NT servers.

Symantec AntiVirus Research Center Download the latest monthly virus updates and other virus information.

VirusScan Keep viruses away from Windows 3.*x*, DOS, and OS/2 desktops.

VirusScan for Windows NT Real-time virus scanning for Windows NT workstations.

WebScan An antivirus scanner for Web browsers that checks files as you download them.

SECURITY

PassKeeper A Windows 95–only freeware utility that keeps track of all your passwords.

Metz Lock Network security to safeguard workstations from unauthorized use.

Password Generator Automatically generates lists of random passwords to increase security.

Password Zap Say adios to those screen-saver passwords with this password zapper.

WinLock Add password protection to any Windows 3.1 machine.

Win-Secure-It Keeps your system safe with three levels of protection.

WinU Windows 95 menuing system with built-in security features.

SYSTEM UTILITIES

AttrMenu/95 An Explorer extension to the right-click context menu that lets you add toggles for Archive, Hidden, System, and Read-only attributes.

AtomTime Keeps your PC clock in sync with the public-access atomic clock server at the National Bureau of Standards.

BootMaster 95 Quickly changes any of Windows 95's boot-up settings.

Configuration Manager Maintain multiple-configuration file sets.

DllWizz Identify all DLLs loaded in Windows, even those running in 16-bit mode.

InWatch for Windows 95 A sophisticated program for monitoring Windows 95 installations.

IVYSpy Get behind the scenes of Windows and examine a variety of technical features.

Michael's Disk Benchmark Use this handy Windows 95 utility to benchmark your disk drives.

Peeper Peeks inside Windows EXE, DLL, and other common files for version and identification data.

Safety Net for 32-bit Windows A fine utility for backing up critical files.

SAW Get information about your system and diagnose problems with this comprehensive Windows diagnostic utility.

Somar ACTS A Windows 95 and Windows NT system utility that sets your computer's internal clock.

Task Monitor for WIndows 95 Monitor tasks under Windows 95.

Time Zone Gives you complete access to the default time-zone information your computer uses.

WDLLFind Locates EXE, DLL, DRV, and VBX programs, then identifies their program requirements and origin.

WinInstall Automates the installation and upgrade procedures for Windows apps.

WinMaker 95 Lets you configure a number of hidden Windows 95 options.

UTILITIES/HELP

PC Owner's Survival Guide An electronic guide full of information on computer support, maintenance, ergonomics, and disaster prevention.

Modem Workshop More information on modems and telecommunications than you'll ever need to know.

Windows 95 Help: What's New Electronic Guide Highlights Windows 95's new help features.

Windows 95 Support Assistant Your very own tap into Microsoft's support database.

MULTIMEDIA

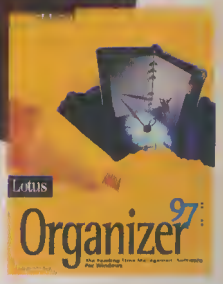
GRAPHICS EDITING

Paint Shop Pro A speedy 32-bit, image-capturing, image-editing, and format-conversion utility.

I'd love to learn more about managing my time.

I've got about thirty seconds to listen.

Too much to do and not enough time to get it done. Wouldn't it be nice to feel more in control? That's where we come in. Lotus Organizer™ is now designed to take advantage of Windows® 95.™ It helps you manage both your work and personal schedules. You'll have the peace of mind of knowing that you're getting the most out of each day. How? Organizer gives you seven key features that help you keep your life under control. A Calendar for scheduling appointments, a To Do list for prioritizing tasks, an Address book for storing and organizing addresses, a Call manager for making and tracking phone calls, a Planner for multi-day events, a Notepad for free-form notes and imported information, and an Anniversary section to remind you of important dates. And there are over 25 print layouts, each designed to fit the most popular date books so you can take Organizer information with you when you leave your office. And on a network, you can share any Organizer information, such as a common To Do list or Address book with other Organizer users on your team.



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2	7.70			

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Designed for Microsoft® Windows®95

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ASL Painter A 256-color paint program for Windows that adds tools for incorporating special image effects into drawings.

DAUB Dynamic Brush Use your PC to create custom calligraphy.

Home Plan Design the layout of your dream home.

MegaCad Computer Aided Design An effective program for easily creating two-dimensional CAD drawings.

DsoSuite An excellent collection of six Windows graphics utilities.

PhotoStudio An easy-to-use alternative to expensive, complicated photo-editing programs.

3-D TOOLS

Fractal Landscape Generator Lets you quickly create interesting 3-D fractal landscapes.

WalkThrough Pro A demo of desktop 3-D, virtual-reality authoring tools.

CAD/Draw An inexpensive computer-aided design program.

MicroLathe An easy-to-use 3-D modeling tool for Windows 3.1.

Virtus Player Lets you walk through 3-D worlds created with Virtus's WalkThrough Pro.

GRAPHICS VIEWERS/CONVERTERS

Media Center Manages and manipulates your graphics files into albums of thumbnails.

Graphic Workshop For Windows View files, and convert them to or from any image format.

Lview Pro Lets you view and manipulate almost any image under Windows 95.

NavImage Viewer A Windows freeware graphics-file browser for viewing Internet images.

Picture View Lets you scan a selected directory, quickly produce thumbnail images, and display up to 40 of them on a page.

ThumbsPlus 3.0 An excellent graphics browser and organizer for Windows 95, Windows NT, as well as Windows 3.1.

SCREEN GRABBERS

Screen Thief for Windows A screen-capture system that uses hotkeys to access an MDI window, a disk, a printer, or the Clipboard.

GrabIt Pro Makes it easy to load an image and grab it using hotkeys or menu options.

HyperSnap A screen-capture program for Windows 95 or Windows NT.

Mr. Snappy '95 A screen-capture program for Windows 95.

SnagIt/32 Quickly capture an entire screen, a portion of it, or just a single window or icon.

BUSINESS GRAPHICS

ASAP WordPower An excellent way to create stunning presentations in minutes.

Chartist A business-graphics flowcharting package for Windows.

Efofex Helps you draw high-quality, mathematically correct graphs.

Graph Crazy 1.1 Input, import, and export data, plus choose from 11 styles of graphs.

Mind Path Presentation F/X Adds special effects to your presentation-graphics program.

Presentation Magic A professional presentation package for transparencies, slides, or handouts.

QuikGraf Instantly creates any of 11 graph types, including 2-D, 3-D, bar, pie, bubble, and high-low.

SmartDraw 95 Allows the graphically challenged to draw flowcharts, diagrams, and more.

TreeChart An easy way to create organizational charts.

MISCELLANEOUS GRAPHICS

Alien Skin Textureshop Forty free textures to use in graphic-design programs such as Photoshop.

Autodesk Image Library A sample collection of the best AutoCAD images from various design groups.

Kodak Picture Postcard Turn your Kodak digital camera images into postcards, and send them via e-mail.

SOUND

Dptical Jammer Gives you two CD players: one with the bare essentials, one with the works.

Sound Gadget Pro A 32-bit sound utility designed to edit and manipulate audio files in Windows 95 or Windows NT.

Background Noise Get versatile control over your computer's multimedia sound abilities.

Cool Edit Edit and manipulate your WAV sound files.

General MIDI Keyboard A feature-rich, MIDI-compatible simulated keyboard that's great for novice musicians.

GoldWave An excellent digital-audio editor that lets you easily record and edit sound files.

MultiMedia JukeBox Plays your MIDI, WAV, and AVI files while you work on your PC.

MyCDplayer Get ready to rock when you use this full-featured CD player for Windows.

WaveMaker An amazing digital-sound design tool for Windows 95 and Windows NT.

VIDEO

Vidvue Displays, prints, and converts nearly all graphical formats, plus plays video, sound, and animation files.

Enjoy Multimedia Player One of the most versatile animation players around.

Motion Pixels Compressor A software-only coder/decoder that provides state-of-the-art, full-motion video compression and decompression.

Motion Pixels Player Offers 12 pixel-resizing options and color choices of 32K, 64K, 256K, and grayscale.

WEB-PAGE DEVELOPMENT

PAGE CREATION TOOLS (HTML EDITORS)

EasyHelp/Web This all-in-one hypertext authoring system lets you create either Windows help documents or Web pages.

HotDog Pro One of the smartest, most powerful HTML editors ever.

Backstage Drag-and-drop Web-page creation from Macromedia, the maker of Shockwave.

DerekWare HTML Author A small but useful 32-bit Web-page editor.

ED for Windows An HTML editor that supports Java and HTML 3 and has hundreds of predefined tags.

FrontPage Microsoft's all-in-one page-creation tool

HTML Assistant for Windows Makes tough page-creation chores easy enough for beginners.

LinkStar Site Launcher Bridges the gap between Web-page authoring and publishing.

PolyForm A powerful 32-bit toolkit for building and managing Web pages.

QRead for Windows 95 A feature-rich HTML editor that's as easy to use as it is powerful.

Quadratura An HTML Web-page editor that supports a variety of HTML codes.

ReVoL Web Worker Provides drag-and-drop page editing and a helpful home-page wizard.

SoftQuad HotMetal This HTML editor offers massive design control and an excellent HTML tutorial.

WebEdit HTML Editor A powerhouse editor for creating and maintaining professional-quality Web pages.

WebMania Form Generator This editor and form generator creates HTML pages and makes Web authoring a breeze.

Web Media Publisher A 32-bit HTML editor for Windows 95 and Windows NT that supports Java, Shockwave, and other buzzwords.

WebObjects Design your own Web page using object-oriented technology.

WebThing Create your Web pages using floating palettes and drag-and-drop tools.

WEB GRAPHICS TOOLS

WebImage for Windows 95 and NT Handles GIF, JPEG, and new PGN formats—and reads a variety of input files.

Toolkit: DESIGN YOUR OWN WEB SITE

Everyone wants to be on the Web nowadays. These tools get you there fast.

HotDog Pro: Build your Web page with this powerful HTML editor (right).

HTML Reference Library: Everything you need to know about HTML page creation.

WebImage for Windows 95 and NT: Modify and convert graphics in a variety of Web-friendly formats.

WebSite: An easy-to-use server that runs on Windows 95.

28.8 PC CARD MODEM WITH XJACK.®

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Digital Line Guard.
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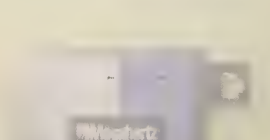

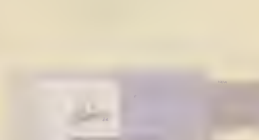

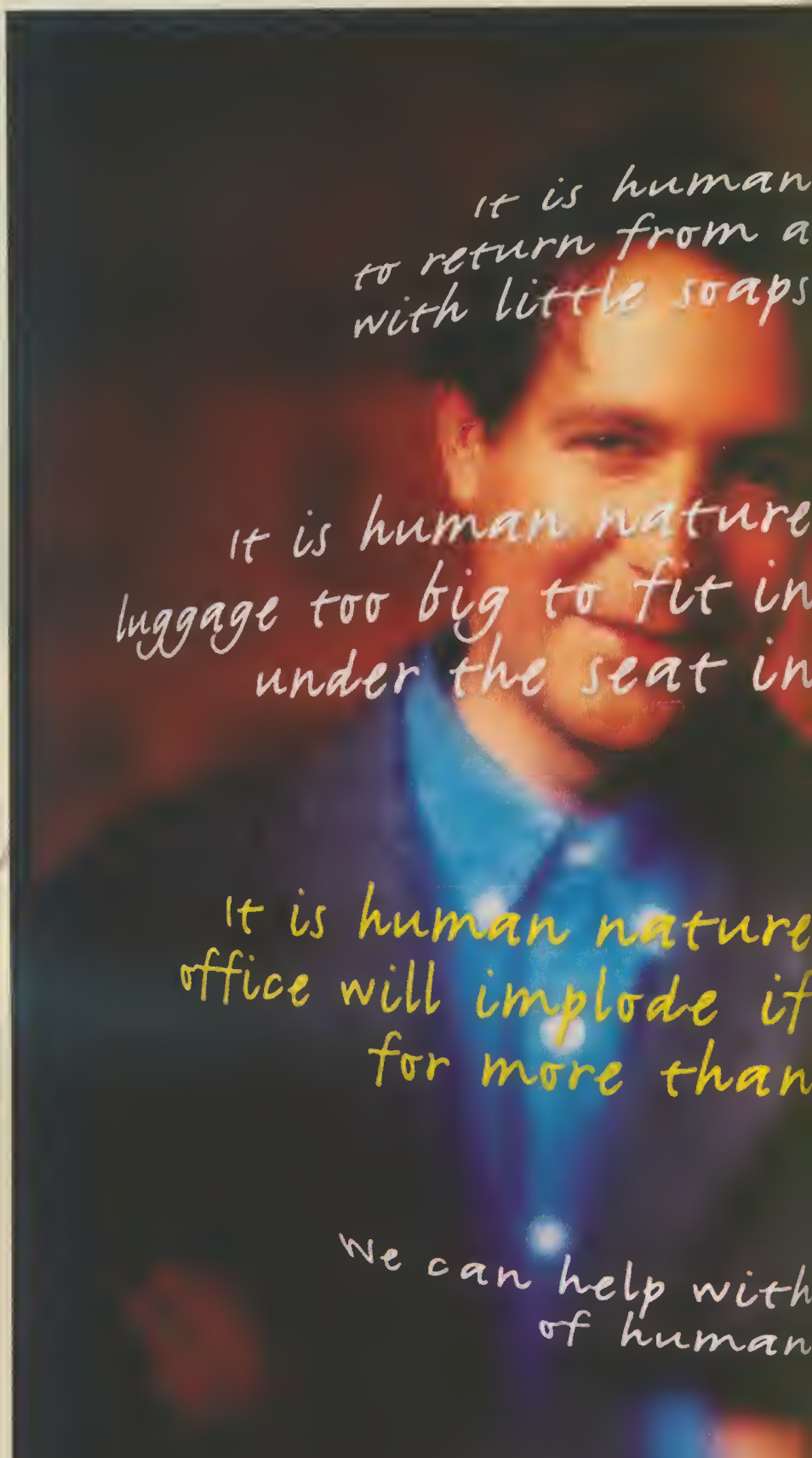

The XJACK connector is U.S. Patent Nos. 5,183,404, 5,336,099 and 5,358,210, property of US Robotics Mobile Communications Corp. ©1996 US Robotics Mobile Communi
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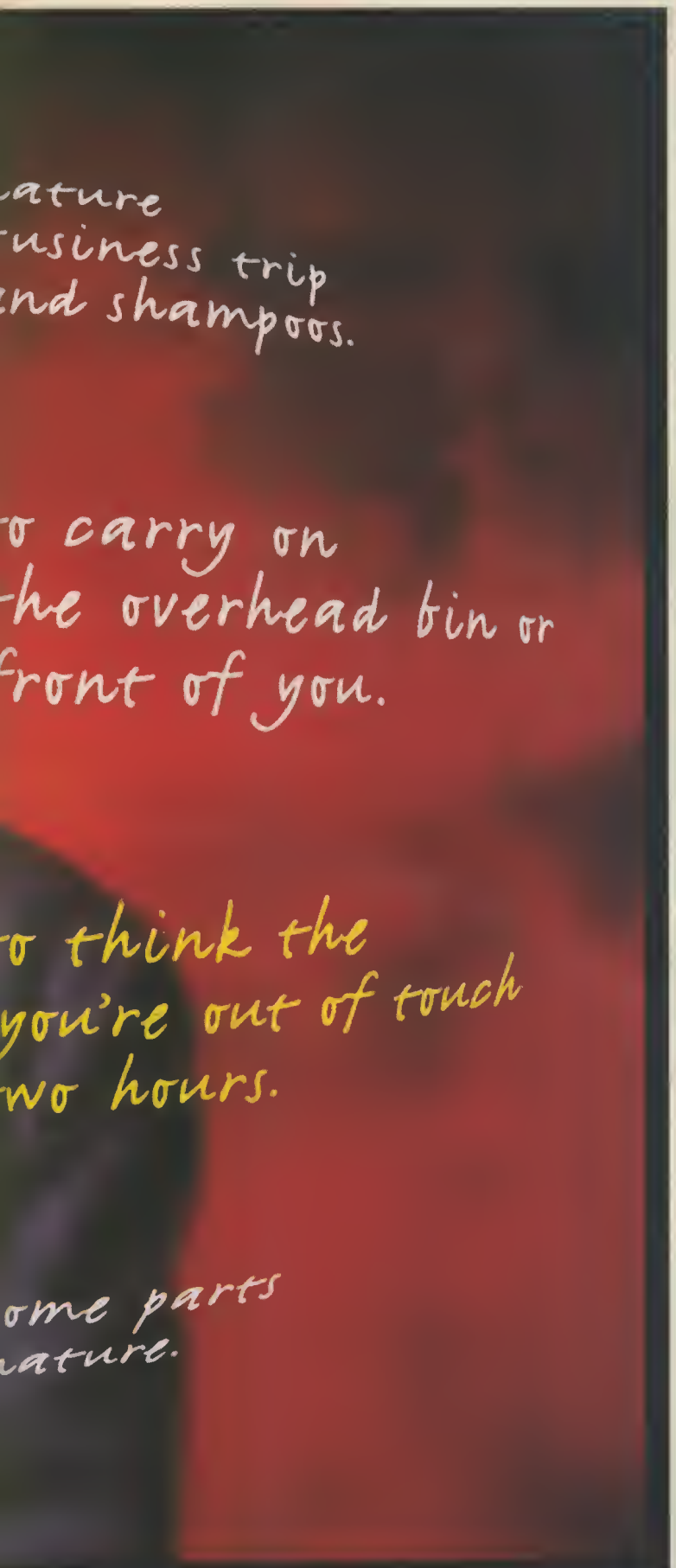

It is human nature to want to communicate at any time, from anywhere. And in this respect, the business traveler is just a bit more human than most.

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1,001 Downloads: Online Tools and Network Software

BIC Wiz A convenient wizard-style program that creates graphic-image catalogs in HTML format.

Color Browser A great utility to help HTML authors find that perfect background color.

Colorwiz Create your own colors, then get those colors' appropriate hexadecimal codes for use in Web pages.

CyberPilot Pro Lets you create and read NetCarta's WebMaps for Web-site navigation.

GifWeb Convert GIF files to the transparent GIF type that is used in Web documents.

Map This Allows you to create mapping files for active image maps on the Web.

Mapedit Quickly map any image for active use on the Web.

The Picture Page Generator Share your photo collection with the world on the Web.

CafeBabe View revisions, Super-class names, and methods within a Java-class file.

JavaMaker A programming environment that lets you easily edit, compile, and run Java applets.

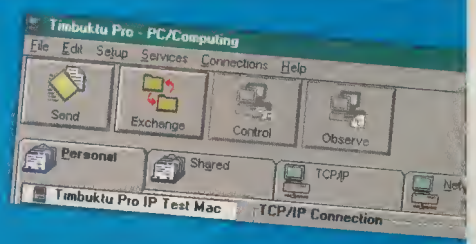
Java WorkShop A suite of development tools for creating Java programs.

Jpad for Windows 95/Windows NT Use Jpad to edit, compile, debug, and run your Java scripts.

Tea-the Easy Animator Integrate animation and audio into a scene, then embed the result into a Web-browser window.

Toolkit: NEW LIFE FOR NETWORKS

You can even find free stuff for your LAN or WAN if you spend some time looking. We did, so you don't have to.



Card: Find out all about every network card on your systems.
NetWare Client 32 for Windows 95: Connect your PC to NetWare 2.*x* or later.
NetDoc: Keep track of all the elements in your LAN or WAN.
Network Email: A simple, inexpensive way to add e-mail to your network.
Timbuktu Pro for Networks: Collaborate with other Timbuktu Pro users without leaving your office (above).

VIRTUAL-REALITY MARKUP LANGUAGE (VRML)

Fountain A powerful tool for VRML authoring and Web browsing.

VRealm Builder Creates 3-D Web sites, and converts existing 3-D models into Web documents.

VRML Express Create and link "virtual worlds" inside the Web.

JAVA TOOLS

Egor Creates Java animations, then lets you view them in Navigator.

Java Developer's Kit Write applets that run in all Java-enabled browsers.

MISCELLANEOUS WEB DEVELOPMENT

WebForms Create and distribute HTML forms, then have responses sent to your e-mail address.

GraphicTrak Find out how many visitors to your Web site actually look at the graphics.

HTML Index Checks the validity of URL entries to save time searching for defunct Web addresses.

HTML Reference Library Learn all about HTML standards.

NBN Lite An Internet encyclopedia full of useful info in HTML format.

ToolVox Encoder Compresses voice files (WAV or AIFF) at a 58 to 1 ratio.

Web Wizard Step-by-step instructions on how to create a Web page from scratch.

ONLINE

TERMINAL PACKAGES

QmodemPro for Windows 95 Mustang Software's 32-bit communication program with support for multitasking and multithreading.

Anzio Lite Works with your existing Winsock connection to access the Web and BBSs.

CRT for NT A great Telnet terminal-emulation package for taking control of remote systems.

MicroLink for Windows A communication program with a dialing database and the ability to capture incoming information to a file.

NetTerm for Windows 95 A 32-bit terminal emulation program that lets you edit HTML files online.

Softerm Plus For the novice user, a full-featured Internet-communications, terminal-emulation package.

BBS

PowerBBS for Windows The most fully featured, multinode BBS package on the market.

CyberSpace Transporter Lets your BBS users call out to other systems through your second modem.

Off-Line Xpress Windows A QWK-compatible mail-packet reader for wcMAIL, Tomcat, QMail, and more.

Packet Boy Lets you peruse messages downloaded from a BBS.

PowerAccess Gives you spectacular multimedia abilities while connected to a PowerBBS system.

PowerBBS-Microsoft Mail Gateway Use the PowerBBS to Microsoft's Mail gateway to provide mail processing on your PowerBBS setup.

SOL View video files, images, and listen to music while downloading BBS files.

Wildcat 5 Navigator A graphical-communications client for the Wildcat Web Server/BBS client.

FILE TRANSFER

Filex Use this high-speed file-exchange package to share files with other PCs.

HS/Link A high-speed, error-correcting, bidirectional file-transfer program that works with your communications software.

MailAway Use MailAway to transfer files quickly and easily to other computers.

QuickSend Connect to and transfer files between computers using a standard modem.

SiteExpress Quickly distribute applications and operating systems throughout your company.

TransX95 Transfer files from one drive or directory to another.

WinSync Backs up, archives, synchronizes, and transfers files.

WinUpD8R A convenient and efficient utility for keeping file directories in sync.

MISCELLANEOUS ONLINE ADD-INS

Voice E-Mail for WinCIM Record and send voice messages to other CompuServe users.

CacheMax A powerful cache tool for America Online's Web text and graphics files.

Catfiles Catalog the files you download from CompuServe, BBSs, and other online services.

CIM File Viewer for Windows 95 View and rename all the messages in your WinCIM filing cabinet.

CIMRater Track how much time you spend on CompuServe.

EZDialup Write programs to access most dial-up hosts, including CompuServe.

WordCIM Gives you complete word-processing power for CompuServe's messaging service.

NETWORK SOFTWARE

MAIL

Network Email A simple yet powerful e-mail system for users on your LAN or WAN.

Altair A mail processor for FidoNet-compatible BBSs running on Windows 95 or Windows NT.

INTRANET TOOLS

Columbus Complete intranet suite with auto-Web gathering, digital paper, and indexing.

Inner-Net A network communications package for multiuser chat discussions across a network.

Pin Ups 4 An excellent LAN-based BBS for Windows 3.*x*, Windows for Workgroups 3.11, and Windows NT.

Timbuktu Pro for Networks Total remote access and collaboration over LANs, WANs, and the Internet.

NETWARE APPLICATIONS

Netware Client 32 for Windows 95 Connect your PC to NetWare 2.*x*, 3.*x*, or 4.*x* servers.

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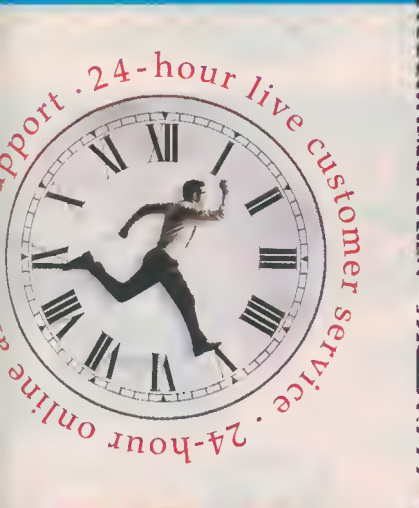

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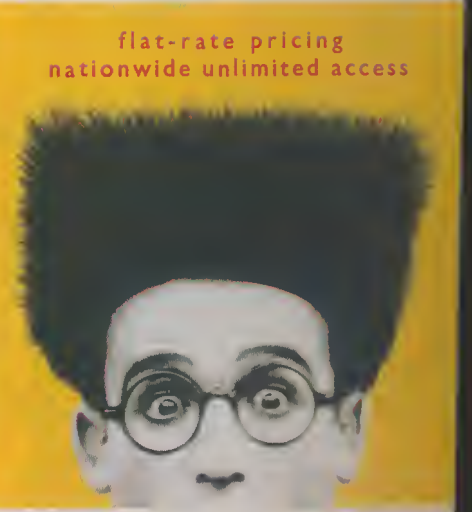

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Circle 224 on reader service card.

BrightWorks An asset-management suite for NetWare networks.

Neighborhood Watch A screen saver for Novell networks that also provides key network status information.

NetWare Client for Windows NT Provides full NDS connectivity to NetWare servers.

NetWare/IP Simplifies the management of Internet Protocol addresses via NetWare over wide-area links.

NovBat2 A batch-file enhancement utility primarily for NetWare.

NWMenu A Windows menu system for Novell networks.

Replica for NetWare Backup replacement software for NetWare servers or individual NetWare volumes.

Saber LAN Workstation A LAN management suite for NetWare and Windows NT networks.

Secure Design's Utilities A collection of DOS command-line utilities that make network management easier.

ServerStor Easy-to-use, departmental server backup for NetWare servers.

Watcher A network-management tool for Novell networks that detects a variety of LAN problems.

LAN SOFTWARE

NetDoc for Windows Quickly establish a complete diagnostic picture of your LAN or WAN.

Card Retrieves network-card information from all workstations that are on NetWare or Ethernet networks.

LAN Desk Basic multiple network operating system management for workgroups.

LANInventory Complete hardware and software asset management for NetWare.

LANtropolis Screen Saver Decorate your monitor with Intel's popular screen saver.

Network Security Drganizer (NSO) A highly effective shell and report-generator that scans for infectable virus points.

SATAN Lets system administrators find common networking-related security problems.

SiteMeter Maintains software-license compliance and minimizes software costs for large-scale enterprises.

WhatsUp A full-featured, network-monitoring tool.

Winmenu GE A system for network administrators who need to build individual Windows menus for their network users.

x-File3 A network file-management system for managing access to shared files over a LAN.

PATCHES AND DRIVERS

CD-ROM DRIVES/CONTROLLERS

Keep your CD-ROM drive spinning at peak efficiency with the latest drivers from these companies.

Adaptec

NEC Technologies

Plextor

Promise Technology

Teac CD55 Drivers

Toshiba America

GRAPHICS CARDS

Add more zip to your graphics accelerator with the latest drivers.

ATI

Cirrus Technology

Diamond Multimedia Systems

Hercules Computer Technology

Matrox Electronic Systems

Number Nine

STB Systems

MOUSE

Download the most recent mouse drivers from the following vendors:

Kensington

Logitech

Microsoft

MicroSpeed

SOUND CARDS

Not getting the best tones from your sound card? Get the latest drivers from:

Creative Labs

Ensoniq

Turtle Beach Systems

MODEMS

Whip your modem into tip-top shape with the most up-to-date drivers.

Best Data Products

Boca Research

Cardinal Technologies

Diamond Multimedia Systems/Supra

Hayes Microcomputer Products

Microcom

Motorola Information Systems Group

Multi-Tech Systems

Practical Peripherals

U.S. Robotics

Zoom Telephonics

PRINTERS

Download the most recent drivers to keep your printer working at peak performance.

Apple Computer Corp.

Canon Computer

Epson America

Hewlett-Packard

Lexmark Int'l

Dkidata Corp.

Panasonic Communications

QMS

Tektronix

PROGRAMMING

C/C++

API Master Provides an excellent online guide to writing C and C++ function calls for novice programmers.

C Tutorial Covers every aspect of C programming in a simple, straightforward manner.

CodePrint for C/C++ A full-featured, command-line driven reformatter and printer for C and C++ source programs.

Container Lite A small container library that includes support of polymorphism and smalltalk-like iteration.

GUI Library Lets you create animation sequences and includes a 16- and 256-color bit-mapped image editor, an icon editor, and more.

MemGuard Classes Emporium Detects memory leaks, array-boundary violations, dangling pointers, and more.

Personal Communications Library for the C Language Offers 38 functions supporting asynchronous communications.

QCard DLL Simplifies the creation of card games for a Windows 3.*x* environment.

RT Edit A powerful, flexible editor capable of handling multiple documents via Windows MDI protocol.

Slider Custom Control Provides tools to emulate gauges, meters, controls, displays and other devices that incorporate a sliding mechanism.

XperCASE This XperCASE version 4.0 demo works with structure diagrams for developing and documenting programs in C++.

BORLAND DELPHI

Component Builder for Delphi Saves you time by building your declarations and code skeletons for methods and functions.

Angular Gauge Control Offers 11 types of highly configurable gauges including a compass, a stopwatch, as well as pitch-and-roll controls.

Dcompress Library Offers compression and decompression routines based on a variation of the LZSS/Huffman protocol.

Delphres Maintains version and string resources and icon- and bitmap-file resources, then compiles them into a linkable resource file.

Incredible Scrolling Credits Allows you to add a scrolling-credits box to your Delphi application using an entertaining bouncing-ball motif.

Toolkit: GAMES GALORE

You're never too old to have fun. This collection has something for everyone.

Big Red Racing: Start your engines and head for the finish in this madcap action game.

Descent II: Slide, glide, and roll your way through monster-filled mines (right).

Extreme Pinball: Rack up your score, but be sure not to tilt.

Gazillionaire: Use your wits to build an intergalactic empire.

Rayman: Take a tour of Rayman's world while avoiding tricks and traps.

Magic Panel This VCL control creates labels for child controls from its Hint properties.

Quick Data Base A lightweight alternative to Delphi's data-aware controls for storing and retrieving data.

Tanimated Component Lets you program simple animated drawings such as exploding text or pages turning in a book.

Tinstall Component Copies files and adds an alias to the Borland Database Engine API.

TTabListBox Component Extends Delphi's TListBox component by providing for the use of tabs in the list-box strings.

Xceed ZIP Compression Library A compression toolkit that manipulates ZIP files and integrates data compression into Windows applications.

MACROMEDIA DIRECTOR

Essentials Provides over 114 buttons and 45 dialog boxes in marble, wood, metal, and wild patterns.

CinéMac for Director A tool that lets you easily transform your Director movies into screen savers.

Director and Databases Describes the OpenDBC XObject, which allows connection to ODBC databases from within Director.

Director Tracing Projector for Windows A debugging aid for Director for Windows.

DLLGLue XDbject Allows experienced Director developers to call Windows DLLs, including many direct system calls.

Movie Utilities XDbject A handy collection of utilities for use with Director for Windows.

Popup Menu DLL Lets you create pop-up menus scriptable through Director's Lingo.

PrintDMatic Adds full page-layout features in Director projects.

PrintXDbj A text-printing DLL that prints text of varying lengths spanning several pages and with or without a right-adjusted footer.

SendEvent This XObject posts mouse-clicks and keyboard events to Director.

Sound This XObject records and/or plays sounds in WAV format, to or from a disk.

Transition Tour for Director Tour Director's 52 transition effects with this movie.

WinInfo Xobject A DLL XObject for Director that gives developers a wide range of Windows system information.

MICROSOFT VISUAL BASIC

VBScript A powerful scripting language that alters properties of Visual Basic's controls and executes batch operations.

ABM for Windows 95 A simulation of the Boltzman Machine, which shows what neural networks are and how they can be used.

Bar Code Custom Control (VBX) Provides an easy way to display color bar codes on colored backgrounds.

Code.Print for Visual Basic A versatile and fully configurable source-code printing utility.

Copycode Opens a second project next to a Visual Basic environment and lets you view, edit, cut, and paste.

Csr Plus DLL Spices up programs with a collection of almost 100 cool cursors.

DFInfo-Disk and File Control (VBX) Gives programmers easy access to disk and file information.

Mabry Software Mega Pack Bundles 12 superb, versatile, and custom Visual Basic controls.

MSlot Creates and uses Windows for Workgroups' mail slots with no Windows API calls.

PerCnt Designed to create percentage bar displays and includes many controls such as BevelBar, Border, and ThreeD.

Thunderbolt/VB Includes professional application-development tools for the functions you'll do most often.

VB Messenger SubClass Custom Adds functions to Visual Basic's windows by intercepting and rerouting messages.

VBTrace Lets you trace program flow at runtime, spot procedures that are being called, and more.

Visual Basic Dffice Incorporates the required application program interface (API) calls into reusable Plug and Play code modules.

Visual Basic Runtime 3.0 This is the dynamic library file required for programs that are written in Visual Basic 3.0.

Visual Basic Runtime 4.0 Contains 16-bit runtime drivers specifically for products developed under Visual Basic 4.0.

MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMMING

DDE Control Centre Lets you control many DDE features in Windows applications.

E For Windows A heavy-duty editor for programmers who create languages and compilers.

Flute Offers Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 users an alternative to macro recorders.

Liberty Basic Lite Master Basic programming with this powerful utility for Windows. Includes an editor, tracing debugger, and graphics handler.

Parse Analyze data in Microsoft's FoxPro with this program (source code included).

PostCalc Lets a programmer manipulate data down to the bit level.

Programmer's File Editor A large-capacity programming editor for Windows 95, Windows NT, and Windows 3.1.

Programmer's Units Converter for Windows Converts units among twips, pixels, points, inches, millimeters, and centimeters.

Registration DB DLE Server DLL A 32-bit DLL that lets you access the Windows Registry from Visual Basic programs.

ShareMan Lets you add a variety of security mechanisms to your software distribution disks.

Toolkit: FOOLING AROUND

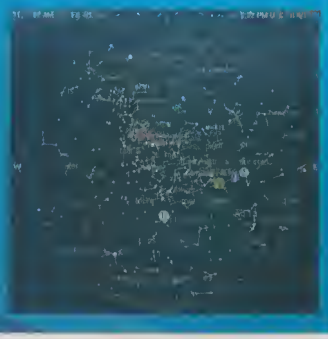
Why settle for a humdrum desktop? This kit adds some spice to your PC's life.

Animouse: Add animated cursors to your Windows desktop.

EyeCon: The eyes follow your cursor around the screen.

Sky Screen Saver for Windows: See what the stars look like from any location on Earth (right).

Win-Prank: Practical jokes to play on the unsuspecting.



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HOME AND HOBBIES

HOME/FAMILY

Essential Home Inventory Helps you categorize the contents of your home.

Aunt Annie's Crafts Consists of patterns and instructions for various crafts that are oriented toward children.

Baby Tracker for Windows This helps parents keep track of their developing bundle of joy.

Birthday Chronicle for Windows Prints the front page of any newspaper for the day a person was born.

Chores and Rewards Parents will love this system for managing their children's chores, rewards, and penalties.

Cumberland Family Tree for Windows A powerful and easy-to-use genealogy program.

Grocery Consumer for Windows A detailed recipe and grocery manager for recipes and coupons.

Parents An excellent genealogy database that stores ancestral data for viewing and printing.

PC Baby Keep track of important events in your baby's life.

Quick Shopping List A powerful PC-based shopping list.

Software Book for Windows A database designed to organize and track your software.

GAMBLING

ZLotto 96 Simplifies lottery number selection by generating random numbers for virtually any game, including Keno, PowerBall, and Pick 5.

Casino Planner for Craps Learn gaming strategies that give you a better chance of walking away a winner.

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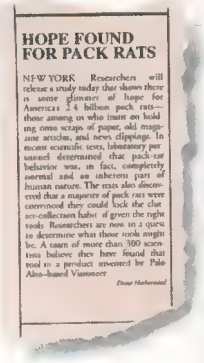
It can scan thousands of words in minutes—from virtually any type of document. Reports. Memos. Letters. Then PaperPort Vx's integrated OmniPage LITE™ OCR software converts these words to digital format so they can be edited or copied.

PAPERPORT Vx KEEPS TRACK OF YOUR CONTACTS

Tired of forgetting people's names and numbers? Just scan business cards into PaperPort, and its CardScan SE™ software automatically creates a file of your business contacts—all on your personal computer.

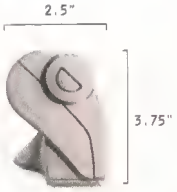


PAPERPORT Vx GETS RID OF CLUTTER

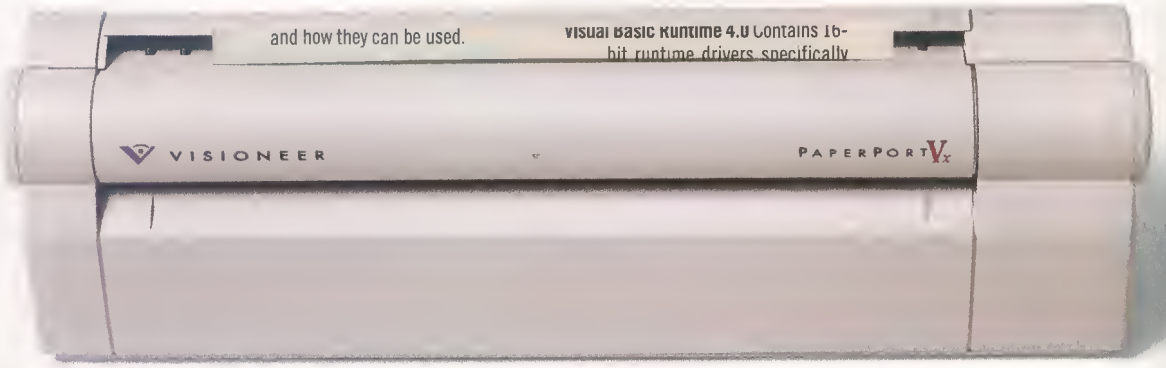
Then there are all of those recipes, financial statements, Dear Binky columns, and newspaper articles you just can't bear to part with. You can use PaperPort to scan paper as long as 30 inches, and photos in up to 256 shades of gray. So you can save them forever, and get rid of the originals—with no remorse.

PAPERPORT Vx FITS EASILY INTO YOUR WINDOWS OR MAC SYSTEM

It's sleek and small. It rests right between your keyboard and monitor



Now see what you've done.



PAPERPORT Vx MAKES SMART ARCHIVES

Imagine never having to rummage to find an important slip of paper: PaperPort lets you create archives of critical documents—receipts, invoices, your car registration, even those love notes from the 7th grade

PAPERPORT Vx PUTS POWER BEHIND YOUR EMAIL

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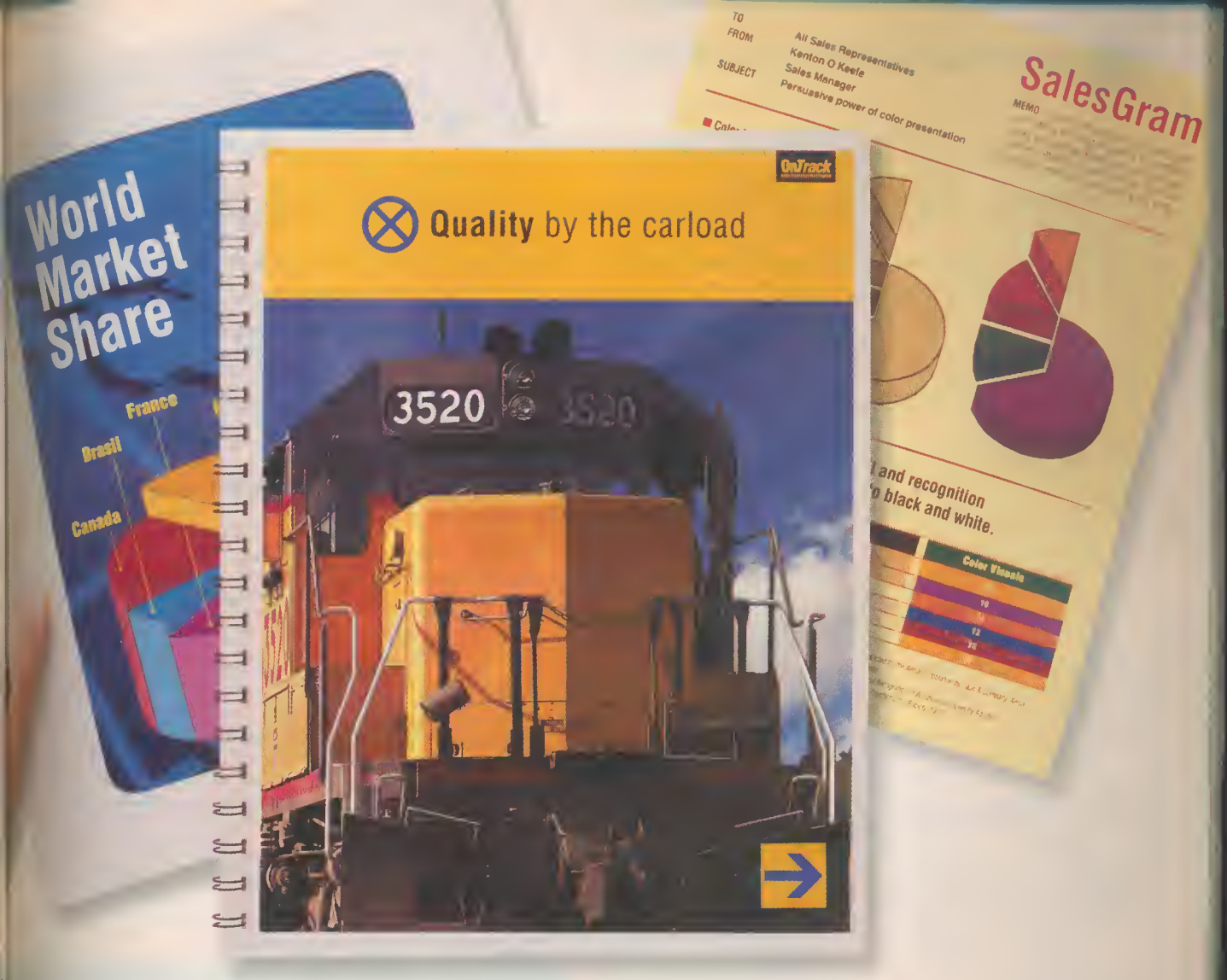

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J.Q.L. Lottery Generates lotto numbers. Will they win? Who knows.

LottoMan Maintains histories of winning plays and user plays for lottery enthusiasts.

Thoroughbred Handicapper Pro Several common handicapping techniques help you pick the ponies.

MUSIC

SoundZ A slick, professional database for managing your audio collection.

CaseLinr for Windows Prints and saves liners (J-cards) for conventional and DAT audio-cassette boxes.

CDStore An easy way to keep track of your music collection, regardless of the media format.

dsTune32 Guitar Tuning Device Turns your computer into a highly accurate tuning device for acoustic and electric guitars.

KeyNote Music Drills (16 bit) Drills beginner musicians on note identification and location.

NoteWorthy Composer A top-notch musical composition and notation processor.

Recorder for Windows Teaches kids ages six and up to play the recorder.

RELIGION

Sword Master for Windows An entertaining family game for learning biblical scripture.

Bible Baseball A two-player game that teaches Bible lessons.

God's Word for Windows An easy-to-use Bible reference and research program.

How to Pray the Rosary A graphical guide that teaches you how to say the rosary.

HEALTH/FITNESS

Stretch Break Reminds you to stretch when using your PC and shows you stretching exercises.

Going Under An outstanding reference source that will prepare you for anesthesia.

Healthy Heart Nutrition for Windows Educates you on preventing obesity and heart disease.

Heart Smart for Windows An easy way to create healthy menus, and tracks the calories, cholesterol level, and fat content of foods.

MedClaim for Windows An efficient system for recording and submitting medical insurance claims.

NutriGenie Calorie Counter Provides utilities to calculate your ideal weight and suggests daily caloric amounts according to your activity level.

NutriGenie Diabetes Meal Planner Select meals for diabetics.

NutriGenie Fat Counter for Windows A comprehensive food-analysis program with a sophisticated menu generator for weight watchers and fat-gram counters.

NutriGenie Lower High Blood Pressure Offers a nondrug approach to lowering your blood pressure through diet and lifestyle.

NutriGenie Pregnancy Nutrition Keep track of your food and nutritional intake during pregnancy and lactation.

NutriSoft Compleat Nutritionist A thorough tool for analyzing your nutrition intake.

NutriSoft Pyramid Weight Loss Using the USDA's Food Guide Pyramid, this planner gives guidance to dieters about nutritional health.

Personality Profile For Windows Answer a few questions and get an inside look at your personality.

COOKING/FOOD/BEVERAGES

Professional Bartender An excellent bartending database that lists 1,000 drink recipes.

SudsW Tracks and records beer recipes and the experiences of both novice and experienced home brewers.

I Drink, I Eat, Therefore I Am A great way to organize recipes and keep track of calories.

Magic Seasoning Blends Cookbook Spice up your life with recipes for 33 of Chef Paul Prudhomme's creations.

Mastercook II for Windows A complete recipe organizer with recipe cards and menu makers.

Recipe Processor for Windows A full-featured recipe program that lists 118 recipes in a variety of categories.

Recipes A collection of culinary tools designed to help chefs better organize and operate a professional kitchen.

Wine Cellar Book Store information on your wine collection in this graphical binder-style program for one-click retrieval.

WineBase for Windows A graphical wine database that manages 2,000 wines per file in user-defined cellars, with notes and maturity-date reminders.

SPORTS

PowerPlay Viewer for Baseball Powerful analysis software with 1995 Major League Baseball hitting statistics.

Baseball Stats Keep track of statistics for batting, pitching, fielding, and stolen bases.

BikePro for Windows A daily training and diet log, plus a food glossary for cyclists.

Golf Buddie An excellent database program that allows multiple golfers to track golf games and expenses.

NFL Forecaster for Windows Uses past scores to rank teams, forecast winners, and calculate point spreads.

On Your Mark A runner's database that lets you track your runs.

Dpool A utility for managing that great office activity, the football pool.

PowerPlay Special Edition Powerful analysis software for sports and other data.

PowerPlay Special Edition for Football Powerful analysis software with 1995 National Football League offensive statistics.

Sport Card Catalog for Windows A database that stores information about your sports-card collection.

Win BA A well-designed program for easy tracking of the National Basketball Association's season.

WEATHER/ASTRONOMY

Eye on Sunrise Gives time of day, setting and rising times for the sun and moon, and full-moon occurrence percentage.

Astronomy Lab 2 An excellent demonstration and information source on planetary movement.

MoonPhase Displays a representation of the moon's current phase in the tray area of Windows 95's taskbar.

SkyGlobe A full-featured galactic atlas to add insight to your stargazing.

SkyMap A high-quality planetarium program for Windows 95 and Windows NT.

Tracking the Eye for Windows An easy way to track tropical depressions, storms, and hurricanes.

WetSock This taskbar applet gives you the weather of the area you choose every time you log on to your system.

WinWeather Brings you hourly weather conditions, forecasts, and ski reports.

MISCELLANEOUS HOBBIES

Collect A customized database for tracking stamp, music, coin, video, and other collections.

Astro for Windows One of the best programs around for astrological analysis.

Astro-World Calculate birth charts, synastry charts, track transits, and other astrological features.

BirdData A well-programmed specialized database for bird breeders, particularly parrot aficionados.

BookStore Let you easily track books in your personal library.

Dr. Dan's Fish & Game Predictions 1996 Goin' fishin'? Check your chances of catching a keeper.

Geography USA A unique and well-written U.S. geography study and drill program.

GrowIt for Windows Simplifies picking the proper plants for your garden.

I Ching Empower Tool A high-tech way to get spiritual and personal guidance.

Toolkit: POWER PROGRAMMING

Coders can always use something that helps them save time and create better software.

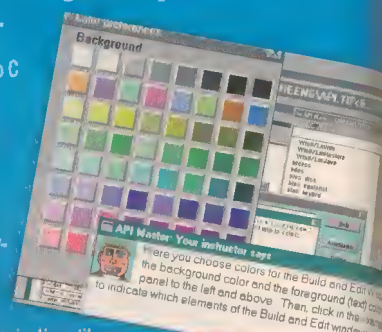
API Master: Complete online guide to C and C++ function calls (right).

E for Windows: A feature-rich programmer's code editor.

GUI Library: Create animation sequences for your applications.

MemGuard Classes Emporium: Protects against memory leaks, array-boundary violations, and dangling pointers.

Personal Communications Library for the C Language: Complete communications library.



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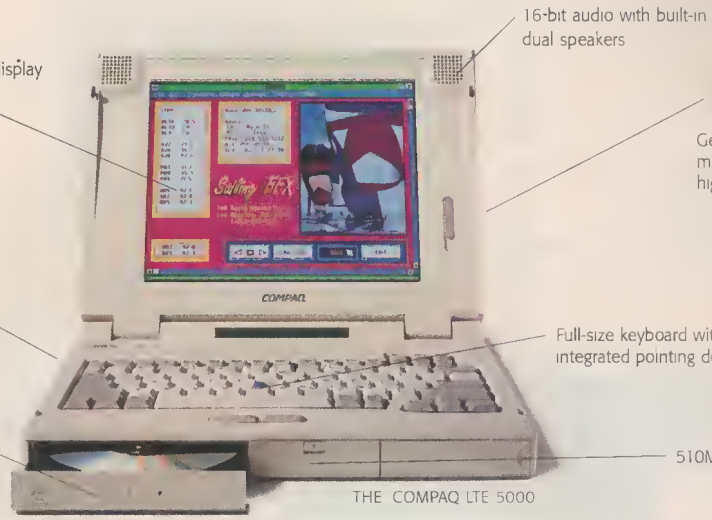

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Kites Made Easy An easy-to-use tutorial on the basics of kite building.

Lowdown on Doctors, Lawyers, and Politicians A complete collection of jokes about these picked-on professionals.

Microscope View and control the polarization, focus, and false coloration of images digitized from optical and electron-microscope photos.

Model Express Manager Organizes and tracks your model railroad collection.

RagnarRocks Cast rune stones and try to predict what the future holds.

Reverend Lowell's Treasury of Humor A collection of more than 100 humorous anecdotes, quotations, and one-liners.

File Express Keep track of anything you want in this database designed for casual users and novices.

First Name Almanac Lists attributes associated with first names, including meaning, origin, and personality.

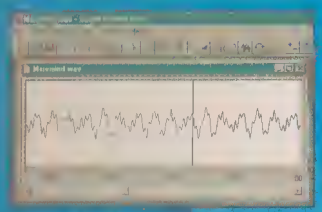
Periodic Table of the Elements What's the periodic symbol for plutonium? This handy program will tell you.

Spell Check Adds a spell-checker to popular Windows applications that lack one.

Touch Type Tutor for Windows Speed up your keyboard productivity with this typing tutor.

Wedding Program A comprehensive wedding planner to manage all aspects of nuptial preparation.

Toolkit: SUPER SOUND FOR YOUR SYSTEM



Background Noise: Take control of Windows' built-in sound features.

General MIDI Keyboard: Make your PC an instant musical keyboard.

Optical Jammer: A pair of great utilities for making Windows play your audio CDs.

Sound Gadget Pro: An easy way to record and edit sounds directly on your PC (left).

Record, edit, and play back sounds and turn your computer into a musical machine.

SmartTracker Books for Windows Too many books to count? Here's a way to sort them out.

SmartTracker Coins for Windows Get a grip on your coin collection with this database and organizer.

SmartTracker Stamps for Windows Tracks, organizes, and catalogs stamp collections with categories used by collectors.

SmartTracker Videos for Windows Movie buffs can get control of their video collections with this database.

Sponge It Contains detailed information on the art (or science) of sponge painting.

T-shirt Maker Walks you through every step of the design process.

WayPoint for Windows A complete marine routing and navigation program.

WinCoin An excellent database for the serious coin collector.

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS

As-Easy-As A feature-rich, powerful spreadsheet that includes 3-D graphics.

Wintertree Thesaurus Contains nearly 110,000 synonyms for more than 20,000 keywords.

FUN STUFF

ICONS AND POINTERS

Animouse Substitutes animated cursors for your humdrum arrow, hourglass, and window-sizing controls.

Crystal Cursors Contains 3-D replacement cursors for your Windows 95 or Windows NT system.

EyeCon This icon's eyes follow the cursor around the screen.

Icon Demon Like a particular icon? Grab it and save it to use in your own programs.

Icons Galore You'll have the most unique system on the block when you add these icons to your collection.

JC's Cursor Collection Contains 90 animated and 19 static cursor files for Windows 95 or NT.

Meta-Mouse Spruces up the appearance of your mouse cursor.

Motion Icons & Cursors A collection of 43 animated cursor icons for Windows 95.

PRACTICAL JOKES

Win-Prank Play practical Windows jokes that you can play on your friends and coworkers.

April Fools' 3 Pack Fool your friends with an exploding mouse cursor.

GPS-Win Apps A selection of fun utilities, including a prank that causes fake Windows errors.

SCREEN SAVERS

Flying Toilets The evil twin sibling of the famous Flying Toasters screen saver.

Animated 3-D Objects Screen Saver I Displays impressive renderings of animated 3-D objects.

Chess Screen Saver for Windows Get hours of enjoyment watching the various moves in each match.

Dancing Triangles Three intertwined triangles wind and rotate on a blank screen.

EZSaver Roll your own screen savers with any bitmap file.

FastFacts Screen Saver Who needs flying toasters? Here are more than 60 weather facts for your screen.

Flying Perfect View hearts, balloons, and other flying objects that move vertically, horizontally, or even explode.

Funny Clock for Windows A cute analog alarm clock that you can mold into odd shapes.

Gates Does Windows Watch Bill smash your Windows 3.*x* desktop and replace it with Windows 95.

Guinness Screen Saver Designed around a frothy glass of Guinness's famous beer.

Holiday Lights Brings the color and music of almost any season to your desktop.

I'm Dut (Business Version) Displays a message and bitmap telling where you are and lets visitors leave a message.

Kaleidoscope 95 A colorful screen saver for Windows 95 and NT.

Mesmerize Screen Saver An interesting, swirling screen saver that may fool even the keenest eyes.

New Frontiers Customize Windows with these outer-space screen savers and desktop images.

Random Screen Savers A nifty screen-saver manager that alternates among your other screen savers.

Seascape Features realistic renderings of three types of tropical fish.

How to Get It All

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Sky Screen Saver for Windows Shows the sky, including stars, above any location on Earth.

Space Explorer Screen Saver (Qian) Shows moving planets attacked by lasers, meteors, and more.

Toon Saver Original, rich, and detailed cartoon art featuring Bucky the Dinosaur, Faces, and Guitar Man.

Triazzle Rain Forest Beautiful graphics inspired by the creatures and plants of the rain forest.

Weird Wally's Revenge Weird Wally walks around your monitor and makes wise and wacky comments.

WW1 Airplanes Screen Saver Features images of early flying machines used in the first World War.

SOUNDS

Movie Sounds Download sound files of the best lines from your favorite movies.

Apollo 11 Add some stellar space sounds to your PC.

Hindenberg Excerpts from the famous radio broadcast during the Hindenberg disaster.

Railroad Sounds A high-quality sound file that will have you looking for the locomotives.

The Shadow Clips from the popular old-time radio show *The Shadow.*

FONTS

Gutenberg TrueType Font A formal, specialty typeface that resembles the text used by Gutenberg.

A*1 Catalogue An alphabet font catalogue you can view in Adobe's Acrobat format.

All Hearts TrueType Font A script font with hollow characters on the background of a large heart.

Alphabet Font Sampler Font animation and samplers of display text and picture fonts.

American Indian Type 1 Font Contains sample pictographs you can use as clip art, calendars, or logos.

Animal TrueType Font A collection of 102 images, or minipics, of different animals.

Awards True Type Font A symbol font that includes award shapes like ribbons, medals, and cups.

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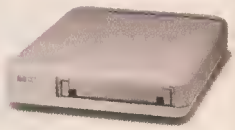

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Ballroom Tango TrueType Font A good font to use when you need a grand and stylized effect.

Beckett TrueType Font A calligraphic, Old English–style font perfect for drop-caps in certificates and the like.

Bell & Bell Italic Fonts Sample two of Monotype's many fonts.

Braille Truetype Font A typeface designed to replicate the dots and spaces of the Braille alphabet.

ButnerBold TrueType Font A bold, geometrically oriented font with an art deco influence.

Cupertino TrueType Font A bold, somewhat futuristic font that depicts a 21st-century look.

Oeniart Sampler Symbols from three font series: Egyptian Hieroglyphic, Alchemy symbols, and Magick & Mystic.

DesignPlus Sample a collection of typefaces, symbol fonts, and ornamental clip art.

Dickens TrueType Font A serif-style font that resembles a light Garamond font.

Diner TrueType Font A font reminiscent of the metal letters found on the outside of '50s diners.

Empire Builder Font A scalable typeface inspired by lettering used on passenger trains of the late '40s through the mid-'60s.

Endangered TrueType Font A sans serif medium-weight font with characters that are backwards-oblique, creating a 3-D effect.

Florimel TrueType Font A lovely, ornate font suited for drop-caps.

FlowChart TrueType Font More than 60 symbols and connecting lines are included to construct a chart.

Frankenstein TrueType Font A formal, bold, script-style specialty typeface.

HotDog TrueType Font A novelty-style typeface that resembles hollow balloons or cartoon letters.

KeysPlease Adds TrueType fonts resembling keyboard keys and other symbols.

MetrolinerCaps TrueType Font A revival of the art deco typeface Metropolis.

Military TrueType Font A symbol font of military items including ships, planes, weapons, and soldiers.

People TrueType Font A collection of 37 images, or minipics, of people in different poses.

Picasso TrueType Font Resembles a modified variation of Old English lettering with a Gothic flavor.

Pleasantly Plump TrueType Font Has bold, plump, balloonlike characters suitable for headlines.

Primer TrueType Font Decorative, medium-to-light characters with a circuslike, festive feel.

Printer's Ornaments One TrueType Font The first in a series of beautifully decorative and ornamental fonts and images.

RansomNote TrueType Font Looks like a collection of letters cut from a variety of sources and pasted together.

Science TrueType Font Fifty-four images, or minipics, of science-related tools, symbols, icons, and devices.

SmileyFace A font with more than 90 variations of a smiley face.

Sports&Hobbies TrueType Font A collection of 90 images, or minipics, of various items or "objects" associated with sports and hobbies.

StarburstFont Adds more than 100 excellent Dingbat symbols to your font collection, including unique bullets and attention-grabbing background panels.

Stripes TrueType Font Individual characters are constructed with multiple thin horizontal lines or stripes.

Teenager Make your headlines stand out with this angst-evoking typeface.

Treefrog TrueType Font A quirky, handwritten typeface with light, unusual characters.

WildWest TrueType Font A font reminiscent of the lettering used for the signs in old Western towns.

ART (WALLPAPER)

Windows Wallpaper Changer Changes your wallpaper every time you start Windows.

Celine's Original GIFs Enjoy all the cool backgrounds, lines, pointers, icons, and bullets you could ever want.

High Fashion, Volume One A sampling of high-fashion wallpaper designs that look like fabric swatches.

Media Changer for Windows 95 Selects a different screen saver, wallpaper, and system sound every time you start Windows 95.

Smallpaper Collection One Offers more than 200 Windows wallpaper designs with a variety of shapes, patterns, and ambient environments for your desktop.

Visual Feast Wallpapers, Volume One A sampler of 15 unique 256-color wallpaper images that include 3-D and embossed effects.

Wallpaper Manager Plus A flexible utility for managing and displaying desktop wallpaper files.

Wallpapers Upgrade A collection of more than 100 Windows wallpaper designs, including ceramic tiles, textile designs, and psychedelic patterns.

CLIP ART/GRAPHICS FILES

Free graphics Choose from several hip, colorful graphics from Jeff Gutterud Publishing.

Design Portfolio A vast library of clip art, professionally designed documents, and support for preprinted papers.

Green Art More than 100 black-and-white GIF illustrations that are "good for the environment."

Hornback PCX Contains 93 hand-painted outdoor scenes, and 20 smaller objects created by a true artist.

Label Graphics Ninety-seven sample 300-by-300-dpi pictures of everything you can imagine, from animals to vehicles.

Michelangelo, the Sistine Chapel Two prerestoration images of Michelangelo's work in the Sistine Chapel.

Micrografx ABC Media Manager SE Drag-and-drop clip art for any Windows 95 or Windows NT application.

PhotoSphere Stock Images A sample of royalty-free and model-released stock images.

Two Paintings by DaVinci Download Leonardo DaVinci's *The Last Supper* and *Madonna of the Grotto* as BMP files.

Vision Art and Verses Number 1 A combination of religious art and related scripture.

TOYS

Greatest Paper Airplanes A paper-airplane tutorial with movable 3-D folding diagrams.

Adopt-a-Pooch Feeling a little lonely? Adopt a dog to keep you company at your PC.

Cat95 Prefer cats to dogs? This utility sets loose a frolicking feline on your Windows desktop.

Clock Talk A flexible utility that displays and announces the time with a digitized human voice.

Toolkit: HELP FOR HOBBIES

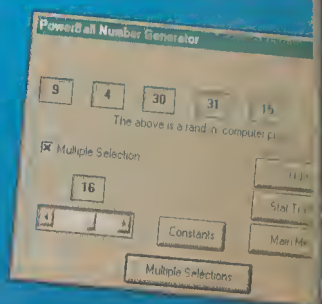
Here's a collection of fun utilities to help you get more enjoyment from your favorite pastimes.

CDStore: Organize and track your CD collection.

Eye on Sunrise: Find out when the sun will rise and set on any date of the year.

I Drink, I Eat, Therefore I Am: Count your calories and keep track of your recipes.

Zlotto 96: Generate random numbers for Keno, PowerBall, and other lottery games (right)



CyberGate Take a ride through virtual reality in this cool graphics demo.

Fortuna See a different quote, saying, or joke every time you start up your computer.

Sound Event Editor Makes adding sound events to your Windows 95–executable files a bit easier.

SoundLink+ Associates sounds with Windows events, such as minimizing and maximizing windows.

GAMES

ACTION

Duke Nukem 3D Blow through walls, use a jet pack to jump over buildings, and fight fantastic underwater battles in this 3-D game.

Adventures of MicroMan Adventure 1 Run, jump, duck, climb, and shoot your way past the enemies.

Blake Stone Stop Dr. Goldfire before he can release his mutant creations on the universe

Dark Forces Demo You're a secret agent for the rebel Alliance, and attempt to retrieve vital information from the Empire.

Fortress for Windows View a barren moonscape through a fortress's rotary tower window while you shoot enemy walkers.

1,001 Downloads: Games

Heretic Take on the role of a death-dealing magus and rid your world of soul-stealing demons.

Hexen: Beyond Heretic Demo Choose from three character classes—Fighter, Cleric, and Mage—in this follow-up to Heretic.

Marvel 2099 Help the Marvel Comics superheroes conquer villains.

Nitemare 3-D for Windows Wander halls full of deadly monsters in this 3-D action-adventure game.

Rayman Try your skill at the first level of this challenging adventure game.

TerraNova: Strike Force Centauri An awesome working demo of Looking Glass's latest simulation.

ADVENTURE

Bad Mojo This game is guaranteed to turn your stomach even as you marvel at its design.

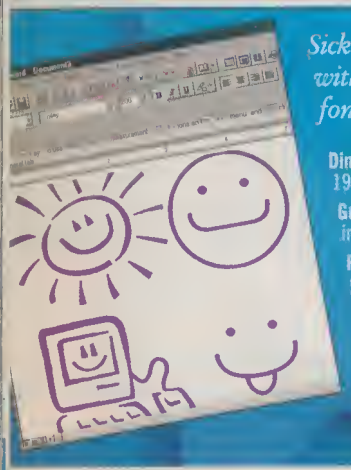
Azrael's Tear Hunt for the Holy Grail with this interactive 3-D adventure, role-playing game.

Dungeon Master II—The Legend of Skullkeep An interactive demo of the sequel to Dungeon Master.

Menlo the Frog—A Musical Fairy Tale Battle the King of Later, a menace who has stolen the key to music.

Stonekeep Fight off myriad monsters and discover lost treasures in the first level of this epic role-playing game.

Toolkit: FUN WITH FONTS



Sick of the standard type that came with your computer? Give these fonts and font tools a try.

Diner TrueType Font: Bring back memories of 1950s diners.

Gutenberg TrueType Font: Use the font found in the first printed book.

FontLook: View your fonts at any size before you use them.

SmileyFace: More than 90 variations on the famous smiley face (left).

Type Designer: Try your hand at creating your own typefaces.

WildWest TrueType Font: Create your own Old West–style signs and posters.

FLIGHT/SPACE SIMULATION

Descent II Play three levels of the action-packed Descent II.

Absolute Zero Try to survive the alien invasion of the mining colony on Europa.

SU-27 Flanker Take a flight in this Russia versus Ukraine shoot-out.

Terminal Velocity Save the galaxy while flying through texture-mapped 3-D scenery with full 360-degree movement.

AUTO RACING

Big Red Racing Go head-to-head with your friends in this over-the-top racing extravaganza.

MegaRace 2 Cruise through 3-D cities in a war wagon loaded with weapons and built for speed.

Whiplash This interactive demo puts you in the driver's seat of a hot new 3-D racing game.

ARCADE

Extreme Pinball Try to be a pinball wizard of the PC.

Bricklayer for Windows A fun clone of the popular Tetris falling-blocks game.

Prairie Dog Hunt2: Judgment Day Take aim at these cute critters with your choice of weapons.

Pressure Drop Eliminate falling tiles with a "chromagun."

Quatris II++ A 3-D version of Tetris.

Sand Storm Missile Command fans will feel right at home shooting Scuds out of the sky.

Shooting Gallery An all-time favorite in arcade games for the PC. Shoot moving targets to rack up the points.

Total Mayhem A 3-D action shooter that lets you go head-to-head with other human opponents.

Under Pressure Test your brain and finger power in these 60 levels of Tetris-on-steroids.

STRATEGY

Gazillionaire Build an intergalactic trade empire by investing, buying, and skillfully outmaneuvering your competitors.

2D-Squares An Egyptian game of logic and luck.

Conquest of the New World An interactive demo of a new strategy game.

Depth Charge—Deep Blue Troubles Command your own destroyer and launch depth charges to sink enemy subs.

Fantasy General Be an American, British, or Russian general and battle the German army in over 35 battlefield scenarios in this World War II game.

Gemstorm Line up gems of the same color while preventing them from filling up the land.

K-Chess for Windows An instructional chess game with an attractive, menu-driven interface.

Mah-Jongg VGA for Windows Try your hand at this colorful version of the ancient Chinese tile game.

Morejongg A fun rendition of the old Chinese tile game mah-jongg.

Panzer General The year is 1939 and you're a German general commanding troops in Poland.

Scorched Earth Torch the other guy's tank before he turns yours to toast.

World Empire III Risk-like strategy games come to Windows with World Empire III.

CARDS

Pretty Good Solitaire A collection of 30 games that can be selected from a button-bar menu.

Draw Poker A computerized version of a video-poker machine.

Hearts for Windows A four-player card game in which the goal is to earn as few points as possible.

MVP Bridge for Windows Do you know bridge well enough to beat this computerized master?

PyroJack An outstanding version of blackjack with sound effects, music, chips, and dealer calls.

Real Deal A collection of card games for Windows 95 that features excellent graphics and mouse support.

RISS Solitaire Card Game A set of solitaire games to play at lunch hour.

ONLINE

Internet Gaming Zone Interface Connect your computer to the Internet Gaming Zone, a free, head-to-head gaming network.

Genewic Mud Client for Winsock Use Winsock to connect to a variety of online multiplayer games.

Dther Realms Interface Join other players around the world in this Internet-based 3-D adventure.

PUZZLES

Triazzle Living Puzzles A puzzle game with beautiful animation and sound from the world's rain forests.

Crossword Express Create crossword puzzles customized with your favorite subjects.

Hangman 2 Play the well-known word game with a graphical interface.

Smart Games Challenge, Number 1 Try this sample pack of RandomSoft's unique puzzles.

TLC Word Game for Windows Includes three enjoyable and challenging word games: WordSearch; Anagrams; and Good, Better, Best.

Trivia Pop A find for trivia buffs: Tons of trivia on a variety of topics.

Word Wacko A cool word game that'll keep your mind in knots.

Xword Create your own crossword puzzles, then print them out.

You Don't Know Jack A wacky, irreverent quiz-show game that combines classic trivia with pop-culture references.

SPORTS

Virtual Pool Test your skill with a cue in this realistic pool simulator.

Keyboard Coach III Fantasy Baseball Create your own teams based on statistics and standings from actual major-league teams.

Slam Takes you back to the days when air-hockey tables could be found in basements everywhere.

MISCELLANEOUS GAMES

The Hordes A visual database program for collectible card games such as Magic: The Gathering and Jyhad.

Word Search Construction Kit Construct word-search puzzles with over 25 predefined shapes.

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MacHome Journal, *September 1995*

"High resolution and sufficient storage capacity make the DC40 the best filmless camera for most people."
Macworld, *March 1996*

"The DC50 delivers the sharpest, most detailed, most accurate images..."
PC Magazine, *March 1996*

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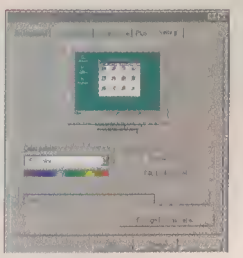
INSTANT Windows

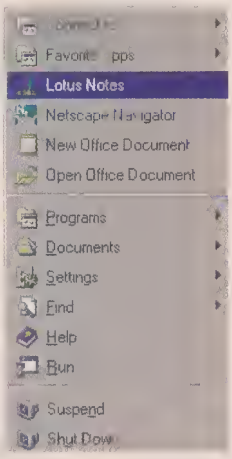
The only Windows 95 manual you'll ever need

Task Master:
Tame the Windows 95 Taskbar and decode its tray icons.

Custom Setup:
Streamline your work space with these desktop configuration shortcuts.



Instant Access:
Get to your favorite programs faster with these Start button secrets.



Have you looked at the skimpy Windows 95 Getting Started guide? You could read it on a coffee break and still have time for two good rumors, one can't-miss stock tip, and a raging Clinton versus Dole debate. If you have a tough question about Windows 95, you won't find the answer in the official Microsoft manual.

But there's no need to memorize Microsoft's Resource Kit to get productive with Windows 95—not if you've got this compact reference at hand. Think of it as the Cliffs Notes for Windows 95—packed with detail and focused on quick answers to your questions (and your coworkers'). And best of all, there won't be a test.

s 95 EXPERT

BY ED BOTT

141 **The Desktop** It's the basic work space of Windows 95. Here's how to add objects to the desktop, arrange them the way you want them, and then find them—even when they're hidden behind a wall of windows.

143 **The Start Button** You can get just about anywhere from here, although navigating through the pop-up menus and the cascading lists isn't always the fastest route. Drag your favorite programs to the Start button to add them to the top of the menu instantly.

144 **The Taskbar** Every running program gets its own instant-access button along the bottom of the screen. Move the Taskbar, hide it, or resize it—and pay attention to the incredibly useful tray icons at the right.

147 **Files and Folders** The good news: Every file and folder has its own long filename, properties sheet, and shortcut menu to make management easier. The bad news: Long filenames don't always behave the way you expect them to.

149 **File Types and Extensions** When you open a folder window, then double-click on one or more files, registered links between file types and applications let you launch data files. Here's how to take control of what happens next.

151 **Shortcuts** Pointers to files and folders stored in other locations can be tremendously useful for organizing information. Shortcuts work across networks (if you know how to name them properly), and thanks to an ingenious bit of code they *never* get lost.

153 **The Windows Explorer** Why is this the least liked utility in Windows 95? Who knows? But once you learn how to navigate through its tree-and-folder interface, you really can use it for every imaginable file-management task.

155 **Find** With the Windows 95 search utility you can find any file or folder—anywhere on your hard disk or across the network—even if you remember only that it contains the word *mistletoe* and you created it last December. Here's how.

157 **Fonts** For most of us, fonts are only slightly less confusing than the infield-fly rule. Learn from our no-nonsense explanations how to add, remove, view, and print TrueType, PostScript, and LaserJet fonts.

159 **The Printers Folder** Click on it to tackle any printing task. Managing printer drivers and print queues is easy, no matter where your printer is located. Not connected to a printer? Here's how to store all your print jobs for later.

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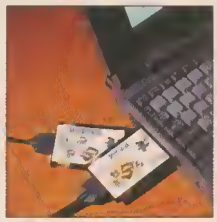

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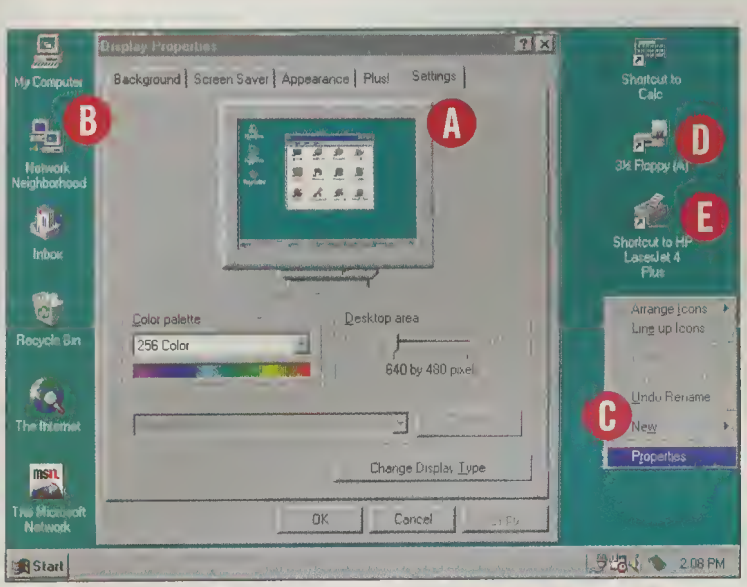
The Desktop: Streamline Your Work Space



A. Right-click on any empty space on the desktop, choose Properties, and click on the Settings tab to **change video drivers and adjust screen resolution and colors.** Other tabs let you select wallpaper and screen savers.

B. Certain **system objects,** including My Computer and the Recycle Bin, **can't be moved off the desktop.**

C. Point to the desktop, **right-click,** and choose **New** to **instantly create a new file from a selection of common file types,** without opening an application.

D. Drag a drive icon out of My Computer onto the desktop to create a shortcut to that drive. To **create shortcuts to files or folders,** right-drag the object and choose Create Shortcut(s) Here.

E. Any object on the desktop can be a drag-and-drop target. Open the Printers folder and drag a **printer shortcut** onto the desktop. **To instantly print any file,** drag it from a folder window and drop it on the shortcut.

GETTING STARTED

What is it? The desktop is the basic work space of Windows 95. When you open a window of any kind, it sits on this space just as a piece of paper sits on an actual desktop. A handful of system objects—My Computer, the Recycle Bin, and the Taskbar, for example—sit here by default. You can place other objects, including shortcuts to programs and data files, here.

What does it do for me? The desktop is a handy place to store work in progress and frequently used files. It's also a great launching point for favorite programs. Its one drawback? It's hard to reach the desktop when multiple windows are open.

How do I set it up? To adjust the look and feel of the desktop, right-click on any empty space and choose Properties. To see desktop objects in a standard folder view, open the Desktop folder, found inside the Windows folder or at the top of the tree pane in the Windows Explorer.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

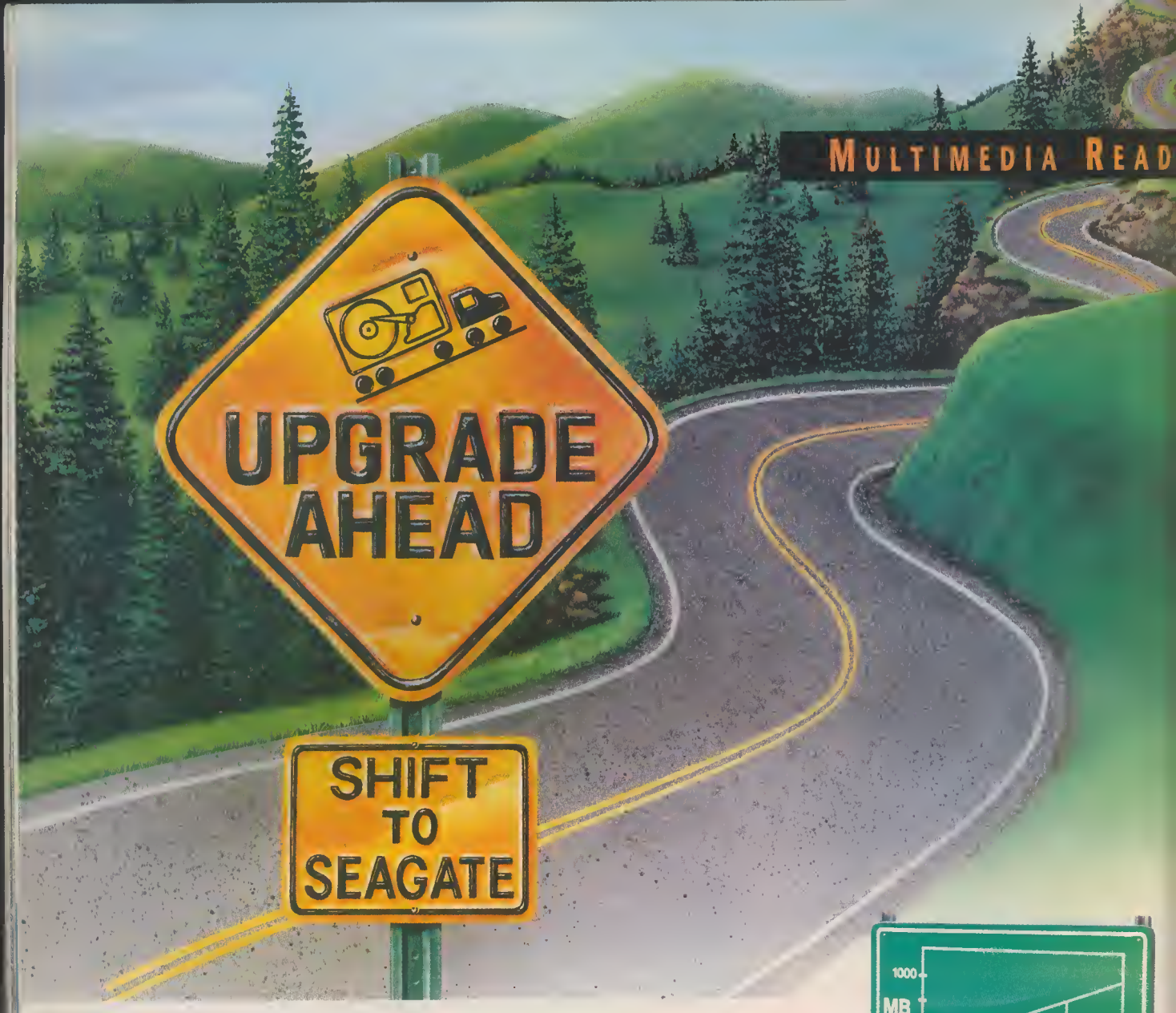
Every time I restart my computer, my icons line up in columns, in alphabetical order. How can I get them to stay where I put them? Right-click on the desktop, choose Arrange Icons, and look at the Auto Arrange entry on the cascading menu. You should see a check mark next to the entry; click once to uncheck it. Your desktop objects will stay put.

Where is the desktop, exactly? The objects you see on the desktop come from two places. In the Windows Explorer, you can see *both* Desktop views: One sits at the top of the tree of folders; the other is a folder inside the Windows folder. Highlight the top icon (or look at the actual desktop space) and you'll see system objects, including My Computer, Network Neighborhood, and the Recycle Bin, as well as objects you've added. The system objects are maintained in the Registry. Objects you add to the desktop are stored in the Windows\Desktop folder.

How can I get to objects on the desktop quickly? To clear all open windows out of the way for an unobstructed view of the desktop, use this shortcut: Right-click on any open space on the Taskbar and choose Minimize All Windows. To restore all windows to their previous position, right-click on the Taskbar again and choose Undo Minimize All.

What's the fastest way to move a file to the desktop? Right-drag any file from a folder window and drop it onto an empty space on the desktop. A pop-up menu lets you choose whether to move the file, create a copy, or create a shortcut. If you regularly move or copy files to the desktop, open the Windows\Send To folder, make a shortcut to the Windows\Desktop folder, and call it The Desktop. Now whenever you right-click on a file and choose Send To, your choices will include The Desktop.

I like my wallpaper, but I can't easily see desktop icons against it. Is there a fix? To leave a plain border around your wallpaper, crop or resize the wallpaper file with an image editor such as Windows 95's Paint accessory, so the image is smaller than your normal screen resolution, and center the image on the desktop. Open the Display Properties dialog box, select the Background tab, and check the Center box.



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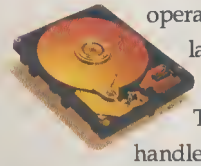

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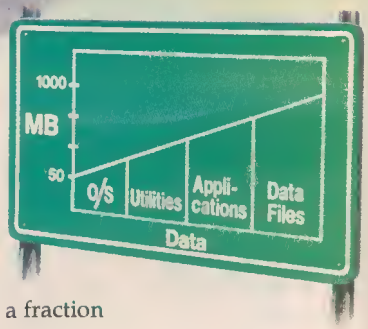

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Medalist 1270sl	1.28 GB	Fast ATA-2	16.6 MB/s	10.5ms	5,400 RPM
Cabo 1276	1.27 GB	Fast ATA-2	16.6 MB/s	12.5ms	4,500 RPM
Cabo 1621	1.62 GB	Fast ATA-2	16.6 MB/s	14.0ms	3,600 RPM
Medalist 2140	2.10 GB	Fast ATA-2	16.6 MB/s	10.0ms	5,400 RPM

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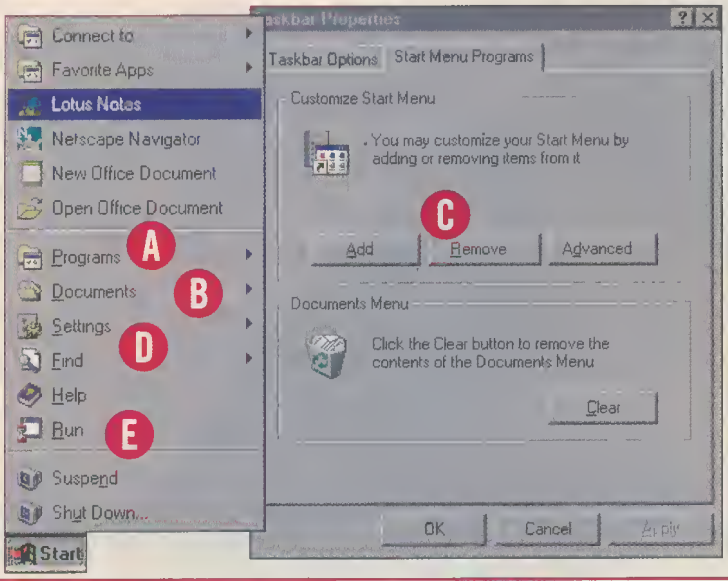
The Start Button: Quick Access to Common Tasks



A. If you upgraded from Windows 3.1, the cascading Programs menu contains **shortcuts with the contents of your former Program Manager groups.**

B. Click on Documents to **see a list of the 15 files you opened or saved most recently.** To **clear the list,** right-click on the Taskbar, choose Properties, and click on the Clear button on the dialog box.

C. To manage the contents of the Start menu, use the **Add, Remove, and Advanced buttons.** However, it's faster to **add programs and files to the Start menu** by dragging the icon from a folder window and dropping it onto the Start button.

D. Use the Settings menu to open the Control Panel or the Printers folder. Both folders are also available from the My Computer window.

E. The Run dialog box functions like a miniature command prompt. Type any program name or folder name here. Enclose the full name in quotes if it contains a space.

GETTING STARTED

What is it? The Start button's Tool Tip says it best: "Click here to begin." This small, customizable, always accessible menu lets you quickly perform most common tasks.

What does it do for me? Use the choices on the Start menu to launch programs, find objects on your system or across the network, and access the Control Panel to adjust system settings. Paradoxically, you also click on the Start button to shut down and restart the system.

How do I set it up? Right-click on the Start button and choose Open or Explore. To avoid constant detours into cascading menus or side trips to the desktop, try adding some or all of these shortcuts to the Start menu: My Computer, Network Neighborhood, and the Recycle Bin; frequently used folders; favorite apps and accessories; and saved searches, such as "All files or folders created or modified in the last five days."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I add programs to the Start menu? Drag any icon out of a folder or the Windows Explorer and drop it onto the Start button. A shortcut to that item will now appear at the top of the Start menu, in alphabetical order. Use this technique to add programs, data files, or folders to the Start menu. To rename shortcuts and organize them into additional folders, right-click on the Start button and choose Open or Explore.

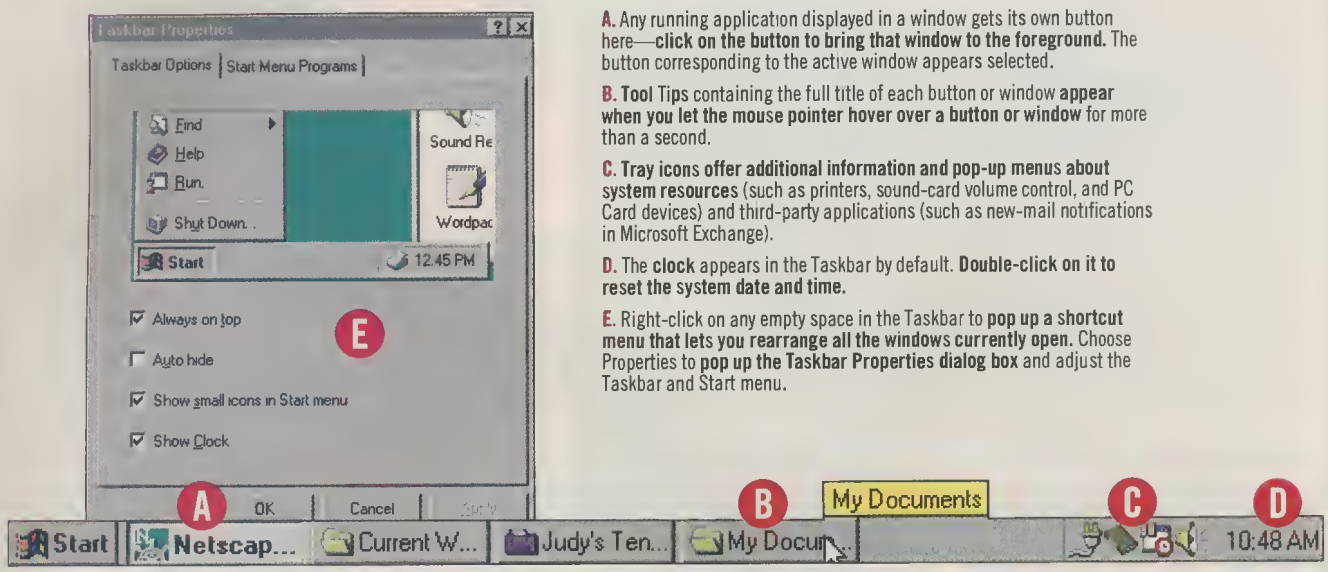
Is the Programs folder on the Start menu just like Program Manager? Not exactly. Despite some surface similarities, there are several important differences. Unlike Windows 3.1's Program Manager, which stored program items in binary GRP files, the Programs folder is a regular, DOS-style directory. You can put shortcuts to folders, disks, and printers in the Start Menu folder, and you can nest folders within folders, a trick that Program Manager couldn't pull off.

Can I sort the Start menu? No, any shortcuts you add to the Start menu appear in alphabetical order. To change the order of items on the Start menu, you have to change the names of the shortcuts—using numbers or letters at the beginning of each one, for example.

The top of the Start menu is touching the top of the screen. How do I get more room? Increase the screen resolution (right-click on the desktop and choose Properties, then Settings) or check the Show Small Icons option on the Taskbar Properties sheet. Another option is to organize some of the items you've added to the Start menu into folders whose contents will automatically cascade out when you click on them.

How can I get to the Start menu without using the mouse? The keyboard shortcuts you mastered in Windows 3.1 work here, too. Press Ctrl Esc to pop up the Start menu. Use the arrow keys or first letter of each menu item to move the cursor up and down. The right arrow opens a cascading menu from the selected menu item. Alt-Tab, the venerable task-switching keyboard shortcut, has been enhanced for Win95 to provide more information about the programs loaded. Ctrl-Alt-Del pops up a list of running programs and lets you shut down any of them.

The Taskbar: Switch Applications in One Click



A. Any running application displayed in a window gets its own button here—**click on the button to bring that window to the foreground.** The button corresponding to the active window appears selected.

B. Tool Tips containing the full title of each button or window **appear when you let the mouse pointer hover over a button or window** for more than a second.

C. Tray icons offer additional information and pop-up menus about system resources (such as printers, sound-card volume control, and PC Card devices) and third-party applications (such as new-mail notifications in Microsoft Exchange).

D. The **clock** appears in the Taskbar by default. **Double-click on it to reset the system date and time.**

E. Right-click on any empty space in the Taskbar to **pop up a shortcut menu that lets you rearrange all the windows currently open.** Choose Properties to **pop up the Taskbar Properties dialog box** and adjust the Taskbar and Start menu.

GETTING STARTED

What is it? Every program currently running in a window gets its own button on the Taskbar. By default, the Taskbar is always visible; use the Taskbar buttons to switch to any window without having to slide other windows out of the way. Some applications use icons in the tray at the right to provide information about hardware and system settings.

What does it do for me? Click on any Taskbar button to switch to that window. Tool Tips let you see the full name of the window, as shown in its title bar. Tray icons are often "live": Right-clicking on an icon gives you a shortcut menu; double-clicking on an icon typically pops up a dialog box with more options.

How do I set it up? Right-click on any empty space on the Taskbar to pop up the Taskbar Properties dialog box. Drag the entire Taskbar or its top edge to change its size or move it to a different location onscreen.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I have three Microsoft applications running, and each Taskbar button looks the same. How do I tell them apart? Point to each button in turn and look for the pop-up Tool Tip to give you the full title of the window. If you regularly use a lot of windows, you can also resize the Taskbar to arrange buttons in two or three rows. Point to the top edge of the Taskbar so the pointer becomes a two-headed arrow, then drag up.

The Taskbar disappeared. How do I get it back? Slide the mouse pointer to the bottom of the screen, where the Taskbar normally appears. If the Taskbar slides up from the bottom, it's been set to hide itself automatically. Use the Taskbar Properties dialog box to change this option. If it doesn't appear, you may have accidentally set the Taskbar at zero rows high. Minimize any open windows so only the desktop is showing, then aim the mouse pointer at the bottom of the screen until it becomes a two-headed arrow. Click and drag up until the Taskbar reappears.

I'm running at a low resolution and want more room for application windows. How do I move the Taskbar out of the way? Open the Taskbar Properties dialog box and uncheck the Always on Top option. Application windows will now be able to use the space occupied by the Taskbar instead of stopping just above it. To switch to the Taskbar when it's covered by an application window, press Ctrl-Esc.

I prefer the Taskbar at the top of the screen, like the Apple menu on a Macintosh. Can I do that? To anchor the Taskbar to the top of the screen or to either side, point to an empty space on the Taskbar, then drag it to any edge of the screen, and drop. Caution: Some application windows don't resize properly when the Taskbar is at the top of the screen.

The time shown in the Taskbar clock isn't correct. Is there a quick way to reset it? Double-click on the clock to pop up the Control Panel Date/Time applet and change the time. To see the current day and date in a Tool Tip, let the mouse pointer hover over the clock for a second or two. While the Date/Time dialog box is open, check the Time Zone tab as well and adjust if necessary.

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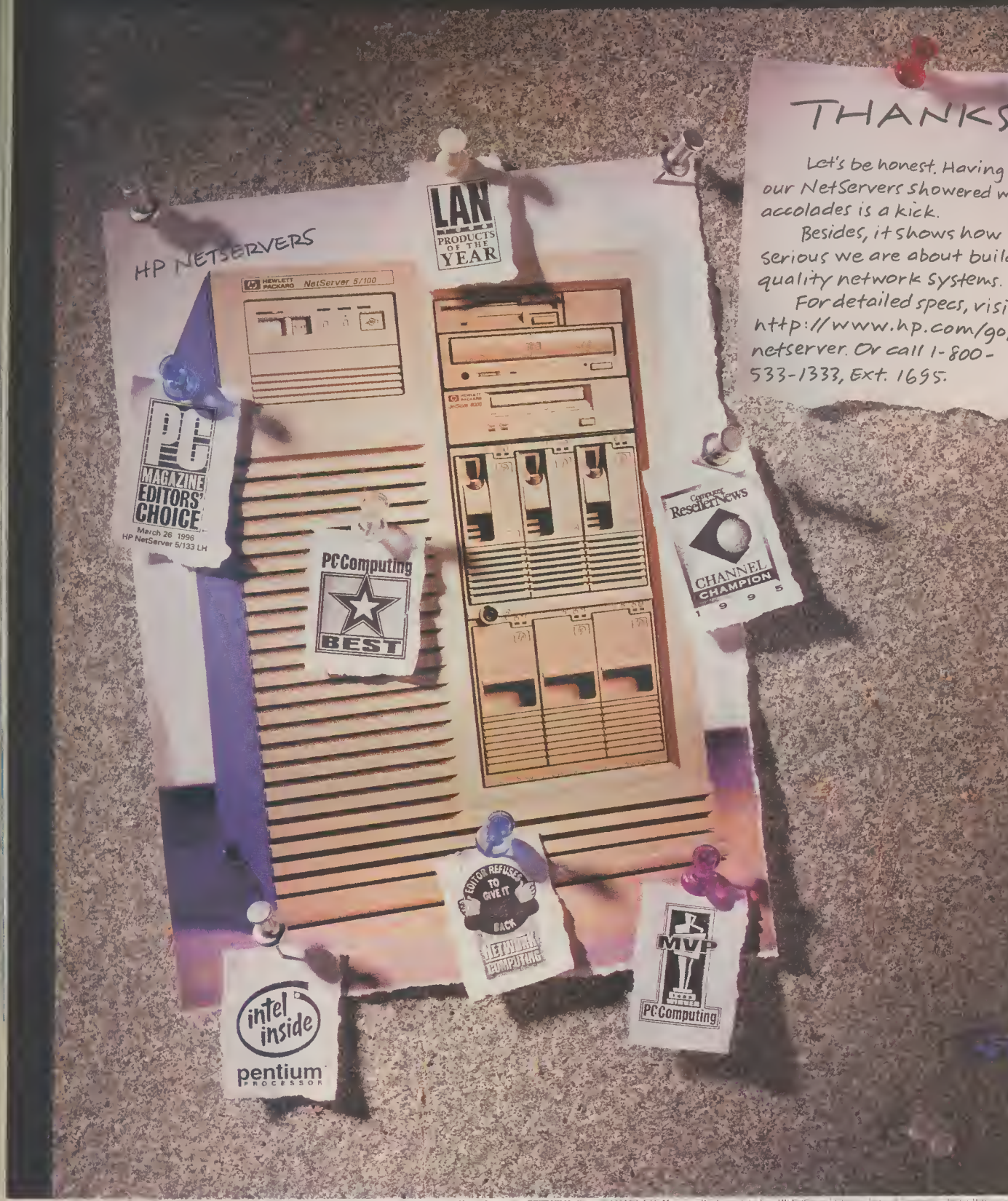

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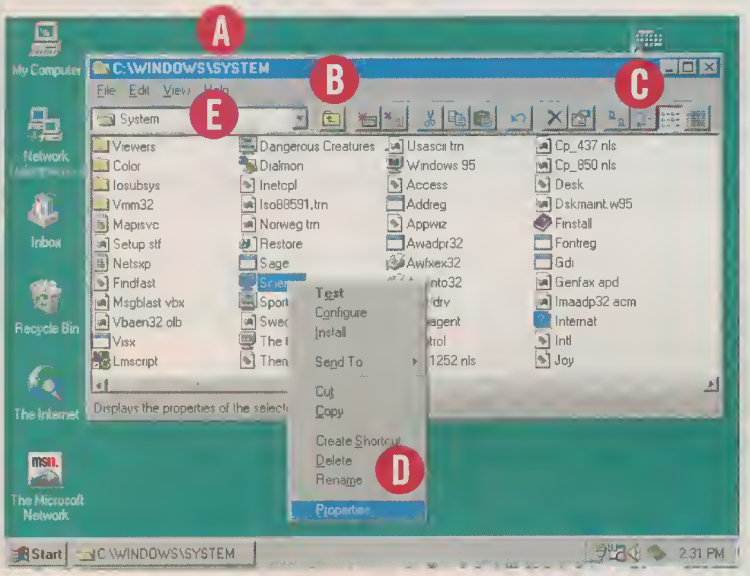
Files and Folders: Store Documents the Smart Way



A. By default, the title bar shows only the name of the current folder. **To see the full DOS path in the title bar of each folder,** choose View and then Options, then check the Display the Full MS-DOS Path box on the View tab.

B. To jump to the parent window of the current folder, click on the Up One Level button. If the toolbar isn't showing, use the backspace key.

C. Use these buttons to switch among four views of each folder's contents. The Details view (far right) offers the most information about each object.

D. For every file and folder—in fact, for every system object, including printers and disks—**right-click to see a properties sheet with essential information.**

E. Choose View and then Options to switch from the default multiple-folders browsing style to one that uses a single-folder window, **replacing the contents** of the current window each time you open a new folder.

GETTING STARTED

What are they? Files and folders are the basic building blocks of the Windows 95 file system. With a few specialized exceptions (notably My Computer and the Control Panel), folders act much like DOS directories. You can view folders not on the desktop by loading the Windows Explorer.

What do they do for me? To see a menu of options for a file or folder, right-click on its icon. The Properties menu shows important information about each object, including size, long and short filenames, and attributes. To see the contents of a folder, double-click on its icon. To move or copy a file, drag it from one folder to another. Right-drag to choose whether to move or copy a file.

How do I set them up? Most options for dealing with files and folders are available by choosing View and then Options from a folder window. The View tab lets you reveal or hide certain file types, including DLLs, VxDs, and other system files.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What rules do I have to follow when naming files? In theory, Windows 95 filenames can be up to 255 characters long, although the full DOS-style file name, including the path, cannot be more than 260 characters. The following characters are not permitted: / \ : * ? " < > |. Spaces are OK, as are exclamation points, ampersands, apostrophes, and extra periods.

How does Windows 95 truncate long filenames for compatibility with DOS and Windows 3.1 applications? Whenever you create or rename a file using a name that would be too long or otherwise illegal under a previous DOS version, Windows automatically generates a matching eight-dot-three entry in the file system. These short filenames include the first six characters of the long filename (minus spaces and other illegal characters), followed by a tilde and a number and then the file extension—for example, LETTER~1.TXT. Succeeding files that would duplicate this filename use the next number in the sequence—LETTER~2, ~3, and so on.

I inadvertently deleted (or moved or renamed) a file. How do I undo it? The Windows 95 shell includes ten levels of Undo. To restore a file to its original state, press Ctrl-Z, or use the Undo option from the Edit menu in any folder window. You cannot restore a deleted file if you've emptied it from the Recycle Bin.

What happens when I drag objects from one folder to another? That depends on the file type, the original location, and the destination. For any unexecutable file, dragging from one folder to another on the same logical drive moves it. Dragging to a different logical drive, even on the same physical drive, produces a copy. Dragging an executable file always creates a shortcut at the destination. The mouse pointer provides feedback about the default action (a plus sign for copies, an arrow for moves).

Is there an easier way to copy or move objects from one folder to another? Use the right mouse-button when dragging and dropping files, then select from a shortcut menu before completing the move or copy. To select a file or files, right-click, and choose Cut or Copy. Right-click in the destination folder and choose Paste to complete the action.

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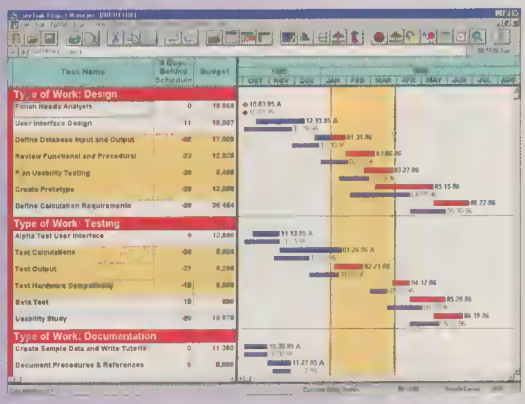

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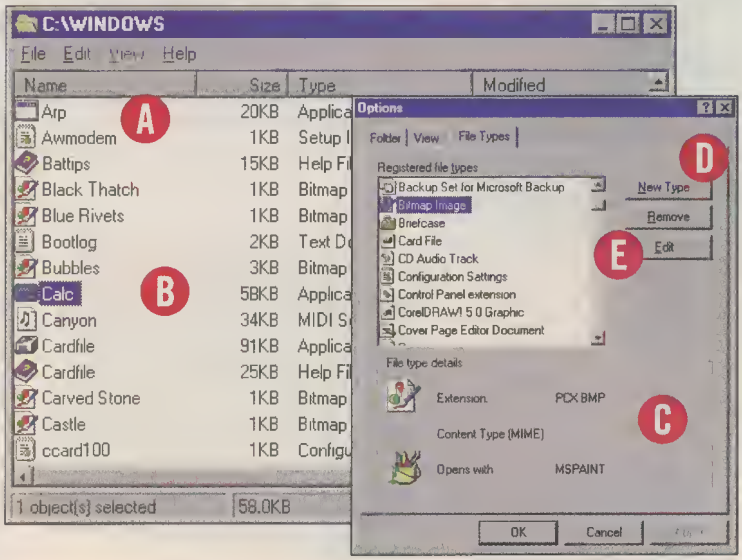
File Types and Extensions: Link Directly to Apps



A. Extensions for registered file types are hidden by default. **To see all extensions, click on View and then Options, then uncheck the Hide MS-DOS File Extensions box** on the View tab.

B. Double-click on any file to launch its associated application. If the file is not registered, choose the appropriate application from the list of programs in the Open With dialog box.

C. Each registered file type includes an associated application that will open files with that extension. If you've installed a Web browser, the Open With dialog box includes MIME information, too.

D. To manually add a new file type, click on the New Type button and enter an extension, a description of the file type, and a new action called Open.

E. Each registered file type includes a description and icon used in folder windows. Click on the Edit button to change either one, and to choose whether to show or hide the extension.

GETTING STARTED

What are they? In Windows 95, file extensions are the characters that appear after the final period in a filename. The Registry includes a database of default actions and plain-English descriptions for each extension, which appear in the Windows Explorer File Type column. Text documents, for example, end in TXT and are associated by default with the Notepad text editor.

What do they do for me? When you open a folder and double-click on one or more files, links to applications let you launch data files. Windows 95 generally manages this process well.

How do I set them up? Most programs create file associations automatically. To associate an unregistered file extension, double-click on the file's icon and choose an application from the Open With dialog box. To add or edit file types manually, open a folder window, choose View and then Options, and use the File Types dialog box.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I double-clicked on a file and got the following error message: "Cannot find file (or one of its components)." What's wrong? Your filename and/or the command it launches probably includes a space—as most accessories in the Program Files folder do. When naming a file whose full path includes a space, enclose the entire filename in quotes.

An application gave my file one extension, but I want to use another. What do I do? Try using the File Save As dialog box from the application that created the file. In the box for the filename, enter the new name and extension, enclosing the entire entry in quotes. If that doesn't work, open a DOS window and rename the file at a C:\ prompt. If the filename includes any spaces, you'll need to enclose the full name, including the extension, in quotes.

I installed Microsoft's Plus CD and now all my file-type entries have changed. What's going on? Microsoft's Internet Explorer replaces the default File Types dialog box with an updated version. The new dialog box includes information to help it and other Web browsers handle MIME encoded information. You shouldn't need to edit this information manually.

I installed a new program and it changed the associations for certain file types. How do I restore the associations I prefer? If the application that originally created the associations has a REG (Registry Information) file, often you can double-click on that file to restore the original entries. To change file associations one by one, open the File Types dialog box and select the description for the new, unwanted file type. Click on Edit, then change the entries for each associated action. If the original entries included DDE commands, it's easier to reinstall the application than to recreate the file-type entries from scratch.

How do I open a data file with an application other than the one associated with its extension? Select the file or a group of files, hold down the Shift key, then right-click. The shortcut menu will include an extra choice, Open With. Click on that menu item to pop up a list of available applications, then choose the one you prefer.

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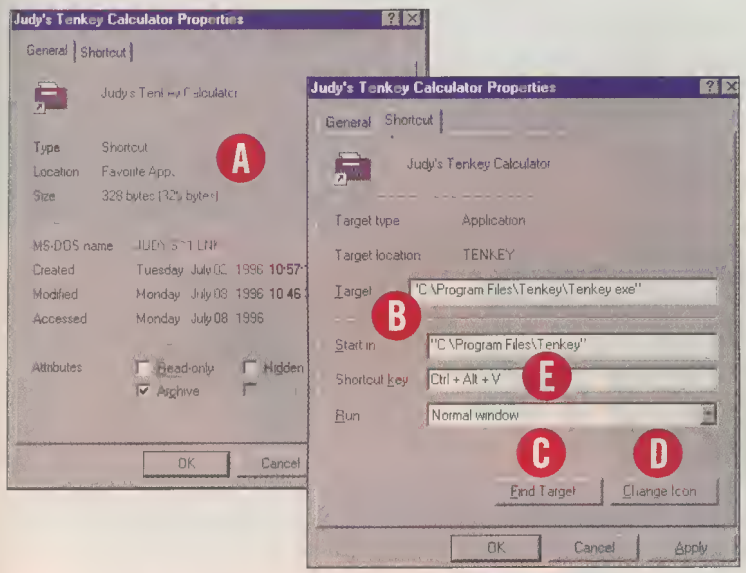
Shortcuts: Quick Clicks to Files and Programs



A. The **right-click menu** for a shortcut includes all the options that would be available if you had right-clicked on the target file. **Click on Properties for more information about the shortcut itself.**

B. The file to which the shortcut points is called the **target.** If you wish, **add command-line switches or other parameters here.**

C. To inspect the properties of the target file, click on the Find Target button. If the target file is no longer in the original location, **Windows will search for the file** in other folders.

D. If you prefer to use a different icon from the one normally associated with the target file, click here. Icons are typically available in icon libraries and executable files.

E. Any shortcut can have its own hotkey combination, which must use two of the following keys: Shift, Alt, and Ctrl. The hotkey combination will work **only when the desktop or Taskbar is selected.**

GETTING STARTED

What are they? Shortcuts are small files (under 1K) that point to another object, called the target. Double-clicking on a shortcut has the same effect as double-clicking on the target. The Properties sheet lets you define a hotkey and a start-up folder for a shortcut. Shortcuts to DOS programs contain properties that control memory and other settings. Deleting a shortcut has no effect on the target file.

What do they do for me? Shortcuts allow you to organize programs and data files in logical groups without disturbing the underlying file system. All the objects in the Programs menu, for example, are shortcuts to executable files that remain in their own folders.

How do I set them up? Right-click on the target file, then choose Create Shortcut. To create a shortcut in a different folder or on the desktop, right-drag the file from the target folder to the place where you want the shortcut.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens when I move the target file that my shortcut points to? To update the reference, double-click on the shortcut. When the target file is no longer in its original location, Windows uses a clever algorithm, based on the file's creation date and size, to search for it. If its suggestion is incorrect, use the Browse button to find the target.

Do shortcuts behave differently on a network? Yes. When you double-click on a shortcut file stored on a network server or on a shared drive, the name of the target file is automatically converted to its universal naming-convention equivalent (*\\server\share\filename*) and should run properly.

How can I use shortcuts most effectively? Shortcuts can be tremendously useful for customizing and organizing applications and data. They allow you to replace a cryptic program name with a plain-English equivalent, for example, or to automatically start a program in a specific folder. If you regularly work for a few days or weeks with groups of files scattered across different folders, try this trick: Create a new folder on the desktop and name it Current Work, then fill it with shortcuts to the files you're currently using, and you won't have to search for them when you need them.

Windows insists on tacking the words *Shortcut to* in front of every shortcut I create. Can I stop this? If you delete these two words from each new shortcut you create, Windows will stop tacking them on after six or seven repetitions. Unfortunately, this preference isn't stored, so you'll have to go through the same drill the next time you start Windows. To make this preference permanent, download a program called TweakUI from Microsoft's Web site (www.microsoft.com/windows/software/powertoy.htm).

I use several DOS programs regularly. How do I create shortcuts to those files? Just as you would for any file. Shortcuts to Windows programs and data files use the extension LNK. Shortcuts to DOS programs use the extension PIF, and the available settings are similar to those used in the Program Information Files in Windows 3.1. To experiment with the settings, right-click on the DOS program and choose Properties, then look at the settings on the additional four tabs.

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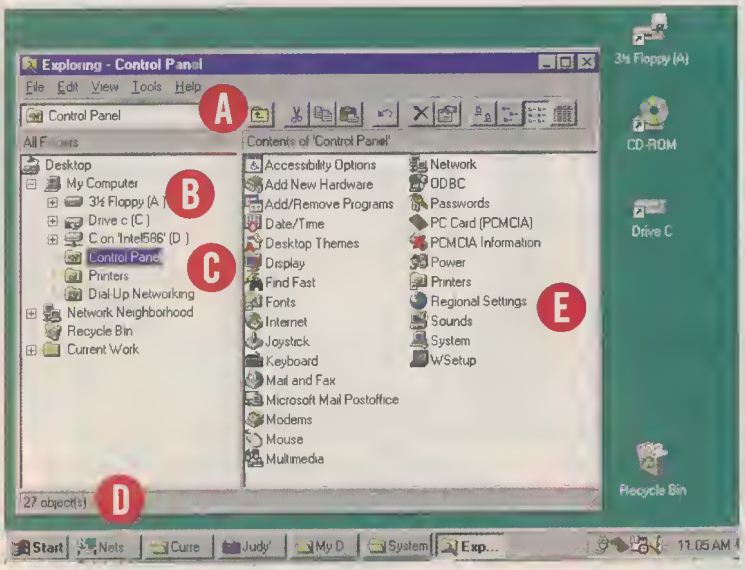
The Windows Explorer: View All Files and Objects



A. The toolbar just below the menu bar **can be turned on or off using the View menu.** Unfortunately, the selection of icons can't be changed or rearranged.

B. Use the tree pane at the far left to see the entire hierarchy of folders, starting with the Desktop. **Click on the box to the left of any icon to expand the tree** from that point down.

C. When you **highlight a folder in the left pane, its contents appear in the right pane.** To make the contents pane appear more like the old File Manager, switch to the Details view.

D. The status bar at the bottom of the Explorer window can display a variety of useful information, including the number of hidden files, the amount of free disk space, or other details.

E. Drag any item from the contents pane and drop it onto an icon in the tree pane to copy or move it. Right-click on any folder icon and choose Open to **launch a separate folder window.**

GETTING STARTED

What is it? The Windows Explorer is an all-purpose file-management tool that lets you view all the files and objects available on your computer and across the network. Like its predecessor, Windows 3.1's File Manager, it includes two panes—the right pane displays the contents of the item selected in the hierarchical folder tree that appears in the left pane.

What does it do for me? Use the Windows Explorer to move and copy files by dragging them from the contents pane to a folder icon in the tree pane, or into a folder window or onto the desktop. To rename or delete files, right-click on the icon in the contents pane.

How do I set it up? Just as with folder windows, there are a limited number of options under the View menu. Toggle the toolbar and status bar displays, choose a default sort, and use the Options menu to change file types or show hidden files.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the Windows Explorer differ from a folder window? Surprisingly, both are actually instances of the same program, Explorer.exe. To switch from a folder window to Explorer view, right-click on the icon at the left of the folder window's title bar and choose Explore.

Waiting for the Windows Explorer to refresh the list of network file servers takes forever. Is there a way to browse only a single server? Yes. Create a shortcut using the command explorer /e,/root,*server* (substitute the name of your server). The /e switch tells Explorer to open in Explorer view rather than the folder view, and the /root switch forces the tree pane to ignore all other servers and local drives. Look in the Windows 95 Resource Kit under "Windows Explorer Command-Line Switches" for a complete description of your options.

How do I sort the list of files in the contents pane? First switch to the Details view, using the View menu or the toolbar button at the far right. Then click on the heading (Name, Type, and so on) to sort, using that entry. Click on the heading again to sort files in reverse order.

When I drag a data file out of the Windows Explorer into an application window, it doesn't always work properly. What am I doing wrong? Many applications, including WordPad and Microsoft Word, automatically insert the dropped file into the current open document. To ensure that the file opens in a new document window instead, drop it onto the title bar of the application window. If the application window is covered up, drag the file onto the application's Taskbar button and wait a few seconds without releasing the mouse button. This drag-and-hover technique brings the window to the foreground, so you can drop the file.

I prefer to have two drive windows open, just as I did with Windows 3.1's File Manager. Can I do this with the Windows Explorer? You can open multiple copies of the Windows Explorer, but each one contains only one contents pane. To arrange two copies of the Windows Explorer, minimize all other windows, right-click on an empty area of the Taskbar, and choose one of the Tile options in the shortcut menu.

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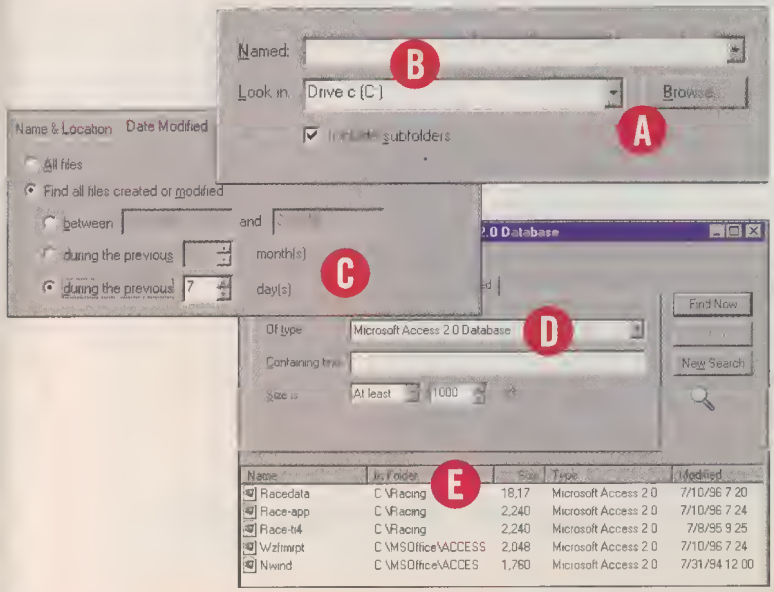
Find: The Windows 95 Search Utility



A. Use the Browse button to **select a specific folder or drive.** To **search in multiple locations,** click in the Look In box and type each location's path, separating entries with semicolons.

B. No wildcard characters are needed in the Named box—**enter a few letters, click on Find Now, and Windows will find any filenames** that contain that combination of letters anywhere in the name.

C. Specify a range of dates, or use the radio buttons and spinner controls to **search for all files created or changed within a specific interval,** such as the past six months or past seven days.

D. This drop-down list of file types is limited to one entry. **To search for multiple file types, enter file extensions, separated by semicolons, in the Named box.**

E. To sort the found files, click on any of the column headings. You can **copy, rename, move, or delete files** from within a Find window, just as if you'd opened the containing folder.

GETTING STARTED

What is it? The Find utility is one of the standard choices on the Start menu. Although you can use it to search for computers on a network or resources on Microsoft Network, it's most commonly used to find files or folders, using any combination of name, file type, modification date, location, size, and so on.

What does it do for me? Search on any local disk or across a network for files. When the search is based on name, date, or size, it's very fast and accurate. Because Windows doesn't index content, searching for text within files is much slower.

How do I set it up? To use the Find utility just click on the Start button, choose Find, and begin entering the filename, date, or other criteria. Click on the Find button to start a search. The search results appear in a pane at the bottom of the dialog box. You can work with files that appear in this pane just as if they appeared in a folder window.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'm constantly looking for the same files. Can I save searches? To save a search, choose File and then Save Search. You won't be prompted for a name or location; instead, saved searches appear on the desktop by default, with a descriptive name drawn from the title bar. After you've saved a search, you can rename it and move it to any other location, including the Start menu. To reuse a saved search, double-click on its icon and click on the Find Now button.

My search found dozens of files, and I can't tell which is the right one. What do I do next? Narrow down the search, if possible, by combining criteria. If you're looking for a small text file created in the past month, for example, use the date and size options to restrict the search to files created within the last 30 days that are at most 5K in size. To peek inside files without opening them, right-click and choose Quick View (a utility available only for certain file types, and only if you installed it). If you remember a snippet of text from the file, enter it in the box on the Advanced tab, but be careful to restrict the search to a specific set of files or directories, or your search will take hours.

I found the right file. How can I quickly open the folder it's stored in? Highlight the file in the results pane at the bottom of the Find window, pull down the File menu, and choose Open Containing Folder.

I want to delete all but a handful of files from the list of found files. Must I select them one by one? Nope. Hold down the Ctrl key and click on each of the files you want to keep; when you've finished, choose Edit and then Invert Selection. This feature also works in folder windows and the Windows Explorer.

What happens when I choose Options and then Save Results? It might not have the effect you expect. Save Results keeps the search-results pane open with the names of the files you found. The next time you use that saved search, the results pane will reappear, but its contents will not reflect changes that have been made since the original search. To update the list, click on the Find Now button.

The only time

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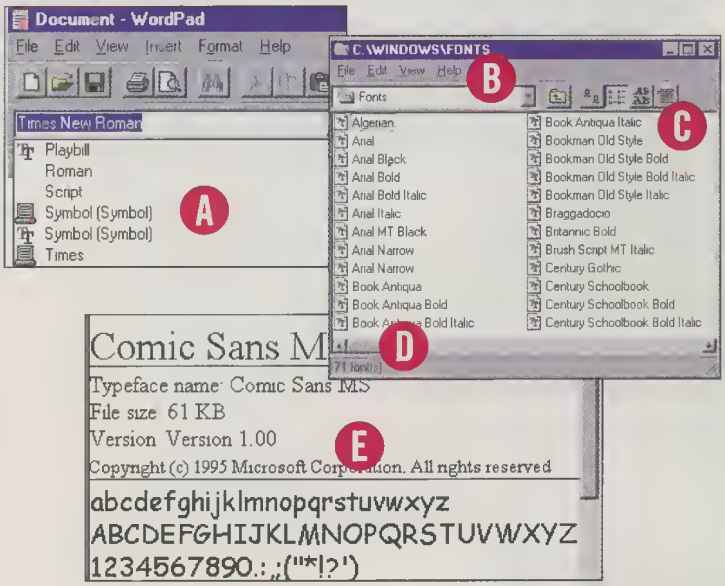
Fonts: Fine-tune Display and Print Text



A. Fonts available to applications like WordPad include both TrueType and printer varieties. **The icon to the left of the font name tells you whether it's a TrueType font or a printer font.** No icon indicates that it's a screen font.

B. By default, fonts are stored in the **Fonts folder** inside the Windows folder. **To add, remove, or view fonts, open this folder** using the icon in the Control Panel.

C. The toolbar buttons in the Fonts folder are slightly different from those in a standard folder. **Click on the Similarity button to find fonts with similar characteristics.**

D. There is no limit to the number of fonts that can be installed in Windows 95. **To make the list of fonts easier to read, pull down the View menu and choose Hide Variations** (Bold, Italic, and so on).

E. **Double-click on any font file to view information about the font,** as well as to view a preview of a font at various sizes.

GETTING STARTED

What are they? Fonts are used to display and print text in Windows. Although there are a variety of types of fonts, by far the most important are TrueType fonts. These scalable outline fonts work with virtually any application or printer to ensure that you see smooth text at any size between 4 and 127 points.

What do they do for me? As long as the font specified in a document is installed on your machine, you can see the document as it was intended. If the font is not installed, Windows 95 uses a matching algorithm to substitute the closest available font.

How do I set them up? Open the Fonts folder (inside the Windows folder—there's also a shortcut in the Control Panel) to install, remove, or view fonts. There are appropriate commands on the File menu (Install New Font lets you search for font files), or simply drag the font files into or out of the Fonts folder.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Some of my fonts (Courier, for example) look jagged at large sizes. What's wrong? When you were formatting your text, you selected a bitmap version of the Courier font instead of Courier New, the scalable TrueType font that comes with Windows 95. TrueType (TT) fonts have a different icon. To see only TT fonts, open the Fonts folder and choose View and then Options. On the TrueType tab, check the box that says Show Only TrueType Fonts.

I have hundreds of fonts installed on my computer. Is there any way to organize them? Not without help from third-party software. Windows 95 does not include tools for organizing fonts into groups, and virtually all the third-party font managers developed for Windows 3.1 refuse to work under Windows 95 because of major changes in the way the new operating system installs and configures fonts. You'll need to look for a font utility that was designed or upgraded especially for Windows 95.

I upgraded from Windows 3.1, and some of the fonts I had installed are no longer available. How do I add them? Click on the Start button, choose Find, Files or Folders, and on the Advanced tab select TrueType Font file in the Of Type box. Click Find Now and drag the found files into the Fonts folder where they'll automatically be added to your collection of installed fonts.

My printer doesn't handle TrueType fonts correctly. How can I print documents using these fonts? If you have an older Hewlett-Packard LaserJet or another printer that doesn't download TrueType fonts, you'll need to specify that TrueType fonts be sent to the printer as graphics. Open the Printers folder, right-click on the printer icon, choose Properties, click on the Fonts tab, and check the necessary TrueType setting.

I have dozens of Type 1 PostScript fonts. What am I supposed to do with them? Keep using them. Windows 95 fully supports your PostScript fonts. However, you can't manage them with Windows 95's Fonts folder. You'll need Adobe Type Manager, Ares's FontMinder, or another Windows 95 font manager to handle that task.

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The Printers Folder: Print Files Faster

A. To add drivers for a new printer, use the Add Printer wizard. You'll need driver disks for a local printer, but not for a shared printer on the network.

B. Each installed printer gets its own icon, with subtle changes to indicate which type of port it uses. A grayed-out icon means the printer is offline or not currently available.

C. To open the status window for an installed printer and manage jobs in the print queue, double-click on the printer icon in the Taskbar tray.

D. If there's a problem with the printer (if it's offline, out of paper, or jammed, for example), an informational message appears here.

E. The status bar at the bottom of the Printers window displays the number of jobs in the queue. You can purge all jobs from a local printer queue, but not from a networked printer queue.

GETTING STARTED

What is it? The Printers folder is the control center for managing printer drivers and print queues. Each installed printer, local or networked, has its own icon here. Microsoft's Exchange fax utility also appears in this folder.

What does it do for me? Every job you send to a printer goes into a print queue first; you can pause or cancel any print job as long as the job is still in the queue. If you're using a notebook or printing to a networked printer, you can choose to work offline and store the jobs in the queue for printing later.

How do I set it up? To open the Printers folder, click on the Start button and choose Settings and then Printers. Double-click on the Add Printer icon to install drivers for a new local or networked printer. Double-click on any printer's icon to open its status window; if there are jobs in the queue, you'll see a smaller printer icon in the Taskbar tray.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

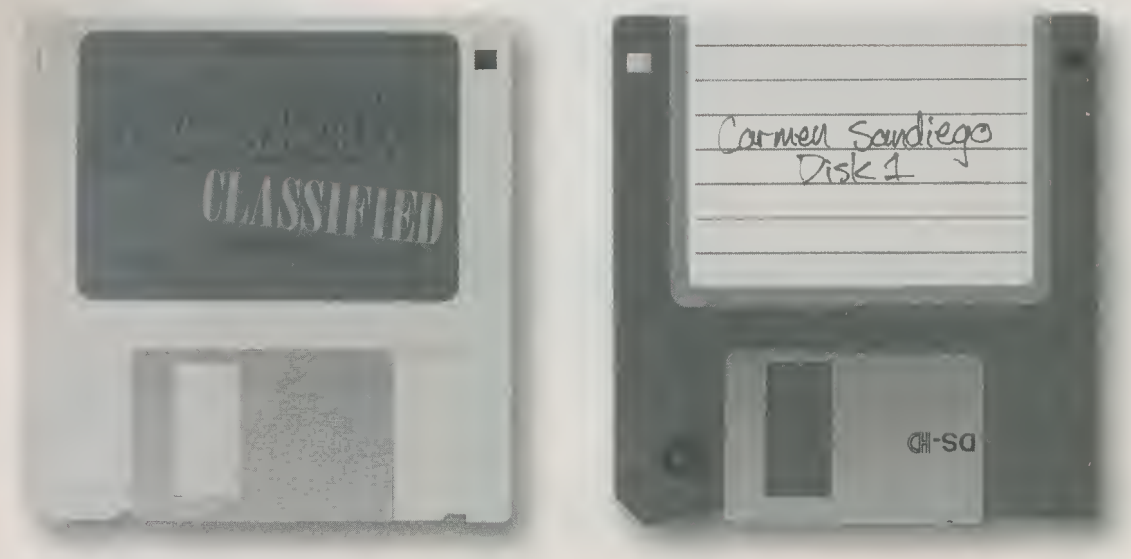
I don't plan to print using my notebook. Do I need to install Windows 95's printer drivers on it? Yes! Some applications, Microsoft's Access among them, won't work properly until you define a default printer. Even if you don't have a printer, it's a prudent idea to install standard printer drivers like those for Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet and Apple's LaserWriter. If there's no printer attached to your PC, configure the printer driver to use the FILE: port.

Our network offers a choice of printers. Do I need drivers for each one? If the printer on the other end is attached to a PC running Windows 95, you don't need a separate disk for drivers—Windows will automatically copy the drivers from the remote PC to yours. Open the Printers folder, click on the Add Printer icon, and follow the wizard's instructions to connect to the shared network printer and copy its drivers.

I want to share my printer with my assistant, but I don't want others in my department to have access to it. What should I do? Just as in Windows 3.1, you can hide a shared printer so that it doesn't show up when other people browse across the network. To activate this undocumented feature, give your printer a name that ends in a dollar sign, such as LJ4$, and protect it with a password. Anyone who wants to connect to that printer will need to type in the full name of the printer, the PC to which it's attached, and the password.

How do I kill a print job? If it's still in the queue, the process is simple: Open the print-queue folder by double-clicking on the printer icon in the Taskbar tray. Highlight the job you want to kill. Right-click and choose Cancel Printing from the pop-up menu. To kill every job in the queue, use the Purge Print Jobs command under the Printer menu.

Because I work with a portable computer, my printer isn't always available. What's the best way to handle printing? Open the Printers folder, select the printer you normally use, and choose File and then Work Offline. Now use any printing function as you normally would. Windows will save your print jobs in a queue and offer to print them automatically the next time you connect to the printer. This technique works for networked printers as well.



These disks are exactly the same, but somebody just paid $100,000 for the one on the right.

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Desktop Supersystems

166MHz Pentiums and 200MHz Pentium Pros

Everything's better at 166MHz and beyond. Want proof? Spend just a few seconds at the keyboard of one of today's Pentium or Pentium Pro supersystems, and there's no going back. Even the largest applications load in milliseconds. The dreaded Windows hourglass becomes a rare sight. And everything you do on your PC is more fun.

Besides, buying top-deck power is a sound investment. Many of the systems in this roundup cost little more than some 133MHz PCs, yet are much more responsive, delivering as much as a 20 percent improvement in performance. So wipe the drool off your chin and stop making excuses. You know you want one.

BY MARTY JEROME

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERNIE FRIEDLANDER

Desktop Rockets

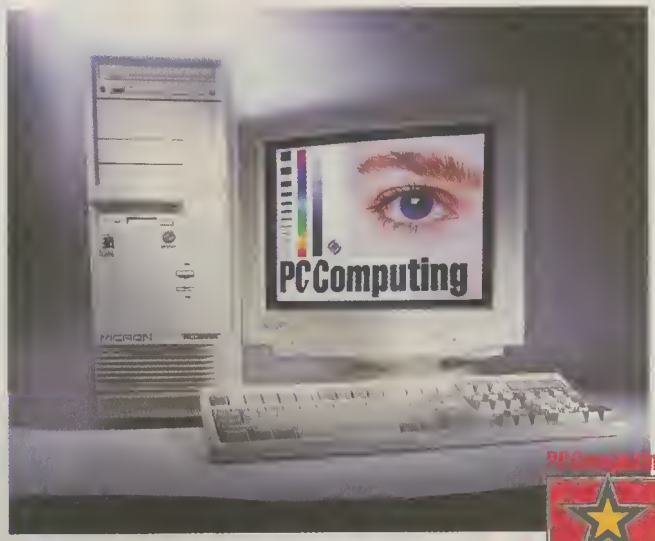
Software never had it so good. The performance advantage of a 166MHz Pentium system—or its 133MHz Cyrix 6x86 equivalent—becomes apparent when your spreadsheet balloons like the federal deficit and e-mail suddenly resembles a multimedia vaudeville act.

But speed alone doesn't make a supersystem. All the PCs we reviewed sport 16MB of RAM, as well as a 64-bit or 128-bit video accelerator with at least 2MB of memory. And while we required each system to have at least a quad-speed CD-ROM drive, most feature six-speed drives. A sound card, speakers, and a 17-inch monitor are also standard.

Right Stuff, Nice Price Our top-ranking system, Micron's P166 Millennia, hit all the marks with ease. Thanks to Number Nine's top-of-the-line Imagine-2 video accelerator with 4MB of VRAM, the P166 Millennia tied for second in our benchmark tests. Its performance was also boosted by Quantum's 1.2GB Fireball hard drive and a six-speed CD-ROM drive. For such speed and quality components, the system's $3,307 price is hard to beat.

IBM's Personal Computer 750 competes with the Millennia in price and outdid it in performance—barely. But IBM skimped on components. The system includes only 2MB of WRAM on Matrox's Millennium video accelerator. And while the Personal Computer 750 does come with a DSP-2 sound system, it doesn't include any speakers—unlike Micron's Millennia.

For about $100 more than the P166 Millennia, Dell's Dimension XPS P166c performs nearly as fast. But its first-generation Imagine 128 video card from Number Nine couldn't keep pace with the P166 Millennia's more current Imagine-2 accelerator.



Blastoff: Micron's P166 Millennia combines top tier performance and enticing options.

MicroExpress's MicroFlex-PCI/166 costs a mere $2,499, yet it tied for second place in our tests thanks to its EDO RAM, 512K L2 cache, and Quantum's 1.2GB Fireball hard drive. But MicroExpress cut corners by shipping with only a quad-speed CD-ROM drive. AST's low-price Bravo MS 5166 performed adequately, but it saved pennies by using a cheaper sound system that forgoes speakers.

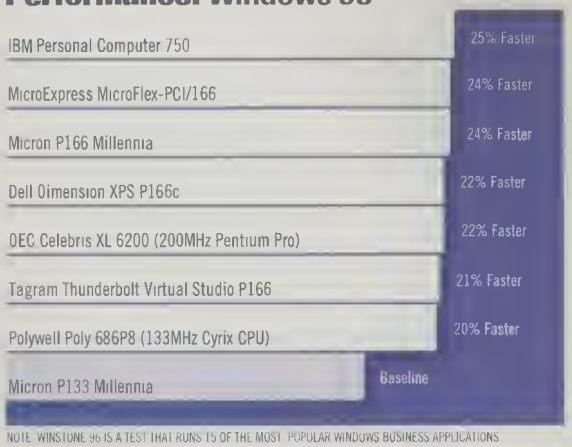
Cyrix Speedster At $2,770, Polywell's Poly 686P8—powered by a 133MHz Cyrix 6x86 CPU—is priced far lower than many Pentium systems. It achieved the best graphics performance, but only middling overall performance. Still, for well under $3,000 you get a 2GB hard drive and ATI's 64-bit Mach64 graphics accelerator with 4MB of VRAM.

Pentium systems from Tagram, Gateway 2000, and Robotech also did well. Tagram's Thunderbolt Virtual Studio P166 and Robotech's Cobra XLT/2 P166 both come with Number Nine's Imagine 128 graphics accelerator loaded with 4MB of VRAM, but the Thunderbolt's $2,595 price tag gives it the edge.

Systems from Hewlett-Packard, NEC, and Quantex are reasonably priced but achieved only middle-of-the-pack performance.

Finally, Austin Direct's Austin PowerPlus 166 and Digital Equipment's Celebris GL 5166ST did well, but cost considerably more than the competition.

Performance: Windows 95



Pentium Gap: 166MHz Pentiums and 133MHz Cyrix 6x86s keep up with 200MHz Pentium Pros and are 25 percent faster than 133MHz Pentiums under Windows 95.

Top 166MHz Desktop Pentium Systems

Product	Price*	Hard Drive/ CD-ROM Drive	Graphics Accelerator (Memory)	Sound Card/ Speakers	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Micron P166 Millennia (800) 515-9197 *Reader Service No. 736*	$3,307	1.2GB/ six-speed	Number Nine Imagine-2 (4MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/ Advent 370	Top-of-the-line video and quality components.	A 512K cache would be nice.	★★★★★ High-quality parts and good speed for a great price.
AST Bravo MS 5166 (800) 876-4278 *Reader Service No. 737*	$2,515	2GB/ six-speed	ATI Mach64 VT (2MB of SGRAM)	Creative Labs Vibra 16S/stereo headphones	Big hard drive, fast CD-ROM, and great price.	Only 2MB of VRAM and low-end audio.	★★★★ A deal for bargain hunters.
Dell Dimension XPS P166c (800) 289-3355 *Reader Service No. 738*	$3,428	1GB/ six-speed	Number Nine Imagine 128 (4MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/Altec Lansing ACS31	Top-drawer CD-ROM drive; 28.8Kbps modem; great usability.	Micron offers slightly better video for a lower price.	★★★★ Excellent value and performance
IBM Personal Computer 750 (800) 772-2227 *Reader Service No. 739*	$3,435	1.2GB/ six-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	IBM DSP-2/ none	Unbeatable performance.	Only 2MB of WRAM.	★★★★ Fastest by a hair but it skimps on extras
MicroExpress MicroFlex-PCI/166 (800) 989-9900 *Reader Service No. 740*	$2,499	1.2GB/ quad-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/SLI	A top performer, and priced like a P133.	Slow CD-ROM and only 2MB of VRAM.	★★★★ Best performance for the dollar.
Polywell Poly 686P8 (800) 999-1278 *Reader Service No. 741*	$2,770	2GB/ six-speed	ATI Mach64 (4MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster 16/ Yamaha YST-M5	Big drive; faster and cheaper than many P166s.	Not the fastest video.	★★★★ Cyrix and Polywell have a winner.
Tagram Thunderbolt Virtual Studio P166 (800) 824-7267 *Reader Service No. 742*	$2,595	1.2GB/ six-speed	Number Nine Imagine 128 (4MB of VRAM)	Aztech Galaxy OPTI 929/ QuickShot W866	Fast and affordable; outstanding video.	A bigger cache and better audio system would help.	★★★★ A feature-packed system for under three grand.
Gateway 2000 P5-166XL (800) 846-2000 *Reader Service No. 743*	$3,599	2GB/ six-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	Ensoniq Wavetable/Altec Lansing ACS400	Good performance; big hard drive.	Needs more video memory for the money.	★★★ A hard worker with few frills.
Hewlett-Packard Vectra VL4 (800) 322-4772	$4,210	1.6GB/ quad-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/internal	Fast hard-disk performance.	Slow CD-ROM drive; only 2MB of WRAM.	★★★ A price cut would help this one.
NEC PowerMate P166 (800) 632-4636 *Reader Service No. 744*	$2,858	1.6GB/ six-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	OPTI 82C 930/ GoldTron 20 watt	Good-size hard drive and fast CD-ROM.	A bit slow; lacks top-quality audio.	★★★ Affordable, but not the best deal.
Quantex Microsystems QP5/166 SM-2 (800) 787-8686 *Reader Service No. 745*	$2,799	2GB/ six-speed	Diamond Stealth 64 (2MB of VRAM)	Ensoniq Soundscape/ Altec Lansing ACS31	Big hard drive; easily accessible drive bays.	Only 2MB of VRAM.	★★★ Low on price but short on features.
Robotech Cobra XLT/2 P166 (800) 255-2215 *Reader Service No. 746*	$3,999	2GB/ six-speed	Number Nine Imagine 128 (4MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/Yamaha	Big hard drive, plus Iomega's 1GB Jaz drive.	Somewhat pricey, even with the Jaz.	★★★ A solid system, but pricey.
Austin Direct PowerPlus 166 (800) 752-1577 *Reader Service No. 747*	$4,507	2GB/ six-speed	ATI Mach64 (4MB of VRAM)	Vibra 16S/ Audiofile Reference 3	Big hard drive; plenty of VRAM.	Middling graphics performance.	★★ Worth three grand, not $4,507.
DEC Celebris GL 5166ST (800) 344-4825 *Reader Service No. 748*	$5,053	1.2GB/ quad-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of VRAM)	ESS 1688 audio/ LabTec 300	Nice software; excellent components.	Priced beyond the competition; weak audio.	★★ A decent system if the price drops.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE BASED ON CONFIGURATION TESTED

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

Power Stations

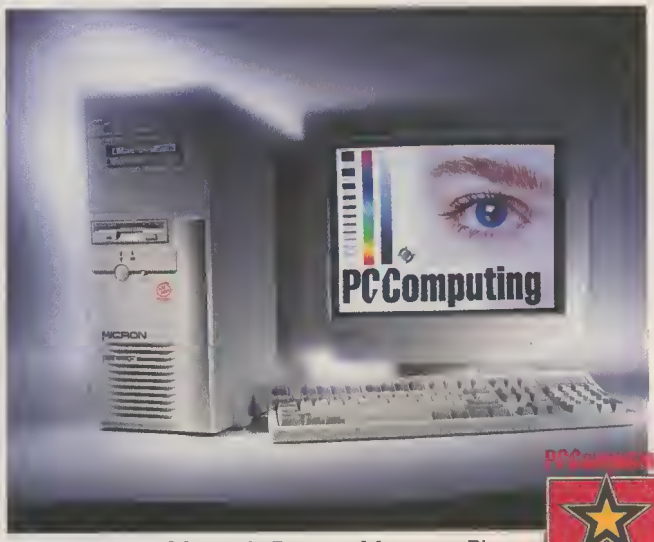
Why go Pentium Pro? Because you can't get any faster—especially if you run Windows NT. The ten 200MHz Pentium Pro systems we tested made short work of our 32-bit performance benchmarks. Buy one of these boxes and you'll be set for the most demanding applications—today's and tomorrow's.

Speed to Spare Micron's Pro 200 Magnum Plus was propelled to the top spot by its stellar components. Number Nine's Imagine-2 video card with 4MB of VRAM made the Pro 200 Magnum Plus a graphics star. And the system's six-speed CD-ROM drive and 2GB hard drive boosted overall performance. Creative Labs' Sound Blaster AWE32 audio card and Iomega's 1GB removable Jaz drive make the system even more attractive—and you can have it all for only $5,506.

Close on the Pro 200 Magnum Plus's heels was Dell's Dimension XPS Pro200. At $3,699 it's one of the least-expensive systems in the roundup. It comes with a six-speed CD-ROM drive, Creative Labs' Sound Blaster AWE32 sound card, and Number Nine's Imagine 128 video accelerator with 4MB of VRAM. Don't let its last-place performance fool you—the spread was narrow and the price makes this system a steal.

Net Return Hewlett-Packard's Vectra XU 6/200 outperformed all the other systems in our tests and is the only one that supports dual CPUs—a real boon for anyone interested in building a high-end Web server or 3-D graphics workstation. Unfortunately, its $7,050 price tag will put off most buyers.

Tagram's Thunderbolt P6 Pro 200 delivered roughly the same performance as the Dimension XPS, but the Thunderbolt has over twice the hard-disk capacity (4.3GB). The trade-off is that the Thunderbolt costs almost $800 more even though its Millennium graphics accelerator from Matrox is equipped with only 2MB of WRAM. Still, depending on your needs, either one makes a great system.



Hear It Roar: Micron's Pro 200 Magnum Plus is fast, affordable, and loaded with extras.

Advanced Logic Research's Evolution Dual6 was fast, but its high price ($6,553) knocked it down a notch. It comes with a big 4GB hard drive, but only a quad-speed CD-ROM drive and Diamond's Stealth 64 video accelerator with a scant 2MB of VRAM.

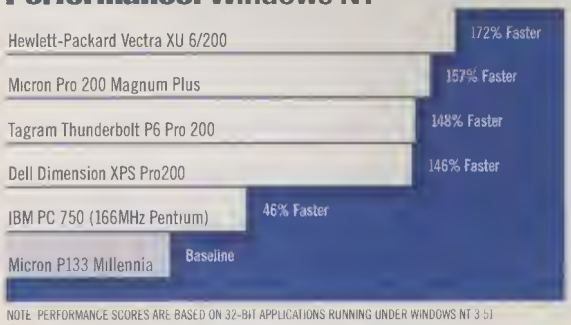
Compaq's $7,788 Deskpro XL 6200 is the only system that offers Panasonic's PD/CD-ROM drive—a rewritable phase-change drive coupled with a quad-speed CD-ROM drive. But the system is hurt by its high price. Integrated Ethernet and Matrox's Millennium video card with 2MB of WRAM weren't enough to earn the Deskpro a higher score.

Gateway 2000's affordable $4,924 G6-200 performed well, thanks to its Millennium graphics accelerator with 4MB of WRAM and a 2GB Fast Wide SCSI-3 drive. Too bad there's no sound card. Local-bus Ethernet is included, however.

Polywell's Poly P6-200A offers solid components, including a whopping 4.3GB hard drive, a six-speed CD-ROM drive, and Creative Labs' Sound Blaster AWE32 audio card. But those features don't justify the system's near–$6,000 price tag.

Digital Equipment's Celebris XL 6200 ($6,919) and Intergraph's TD-300 ($7,500) bring up the rear. While both are decent performers, their exorbitant price tags left us cold. We'll wait until prices are more reasonable. The Celebris's CPU can be upgraded to DEC's Alpha chip, but that doesn't justify the system's cost.

Performance: Windows NT



Not Even Close: 200MHz Pentium Pro systems leave the fastest 166MHz and 133MHz computers in the dust when running Windows NT.

Top 200MHz Desktop Pentium Pro Systems

Product	Price*	Hard Drive/ CD-ROM Drive	Graphics Accelerator (Memory)	Sound Card/ Speakers	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Micron Pro 200 Magnum Plus (800) 515-9197 *Reader Service No. 749*	$5,506	2GB/ six-speed	Number Nine Imagine-2 (4MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/ Advent 370	Top-of-the-line video and audio, plus Iomega's 1GB removable Jaz drive.	Costs $582 more than the slightly faster Gateway G6-200.	☆☆☆☆☆ Micron's price performance combo leads the pack once again
Dell Dimension XPS Pro200 (800) 289-3355 *Reader Service No. 750*	$3,699	2GB/ six-speed	Number Nine Imagine 128 (4MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/ Altec Lansing	Fast CD-ROM, plus solid audio and video components, all at a great price.	The slowest overall performance of this speedy bunch.	☆☆☆☆ Top-notch parts and good speed for under $4,000.
Hewlett-Packard Vectra XU 6/200 (800) 322-4772	$7,050	2GB/ quad-speed	Matrox Millennium (4MB of WRAM)	Creative Labs Vibra 16/ internal	Top performance, plus a dual-CPU option for added power.	Too costly for most budgets; CD-ROM drive is only quad-speed.	☆☆☆☆ Room for two CPUs makes this machine a great server—if you've got the money.
Tagram Thunderbolt P6 Pro 200 (800) 824-7267 *Reader Service No. 751*	$4,495	4.3GB/ six-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/ QuickShot W866	Huge hard disk and a killer price.	Not the fastest; only 2MB of WRAM.	☆☆☆☆ A great deal if you're storage-hungry and don't need top-notch video performance.
Advanced Logic Research Evolution Dual6 (800) 444-4257 *Reader Service No. 752*	$6,553	4GB/ quad-speed	Diamond Stealth 64 (2MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Vibra 16/ LabTec C5-600	Big disk and burning performance.	High price and a slow CD-ROM drive; needs more VRAM.	☆☆☆ A solid system for a lofty price.
Compaq Deskpro XL 6200 (800) 652-6677 *Reader Service No. 753*	$7,788	2.1GB/ quad-speed (rewritable phase-change CD-ROM)	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	Compaq Business Audio/ Vocalyst keyboard	The only system with a phase-change rewritable CD-ROM drive.	Middling performance; slow CD-ROM drive; only 2MB of WRAM; high price.	☆☆☆ Interesting CD technology if you're willing to pay a premium for it.
Gateway 2000 G6-200 (800) 846-2000 *Reader Service No. 754*	$4,924	2GB/ quad-speed	Matrox Millennium (4MB of WRAM)	None	Seductive price for decent performance.	No audio; slow CD-ROM drive.	☆☆☆ A workhorse system, but it's short on valuable extras.
Polywell Poly P6-200A (800) 999-1278 *Reader Service No. 755*	$5,995	4.3GB/ six-speed	Diamond Stealth 64 (2MB of VRAM)	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32/ Yamaha YST-M5	Huge hard disk; fast CD-ROM drive; good audio package.	Mediocre performance for the price; not much VRAM.	☆☆☆ Lots of storage—but you pay for it in dollars, speed, and ho-hum video components.
DEC Celebris XL 6200 (800) 344-4825 *Reader Service No. 756*	$6,919	2GB/ quad-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	None	You can upgrade the CPU to DEC's Alpha processor.	Overpriced; slow CD-ROM drive; low on WRAM; no sound system.	☆☆ Unless you see an Alpha upgrade in your future, pass on this one until the price drops.
Intergraph TD-300 (800) 763-0242 *Reader Service No. 757*	$7,500	2GB/ quad-speed	Matrox Millennium (2MB of WRAM)	Creative Labs Vibra 16S/ MaxiSound keyboard	Moderate performer with a decent-size hard disk.	Second-class components; minimal WRAM; priced for lottery winners.	☆☆ You pay too much for what you get.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE BASED ON CONFIGURATION TESTED

☆☆☆☆☆ *Excellent* ☆☆☆☆ *Good* ☆☆☆ *Acceptable* ☆☆ *Poor* ☆ *Unacceptable*

Final Analysis: Supersystems for Any Budget

Powerhouse PCs

These days, guessing how soon you'll zero out the cost of your next system is next to impossible. No one knows when the mass migration to Windows NT will come, Cyrix is exerting extraordinary pressure on PC prices with its 6x86 chips, and 32-bit applications that take advantage of Pentium power are arriving en masse.

Even so, the basics of buying a computer haven't changed. You want a machine with enough power that it won't run out of gas in six months. That means you have to identify the current sweet spot in price and performance, and buy slightly—but not too much—ahead of it. Reach too far ahead, and you'll pay a premium for the cutting-edge technology. Fail to reach far enough, and you'll hit a performance ceiling before your budget allows you to upgrade.

For basic applications, today's entry-level system is the 133MHz Pentium. Yet 166MHz Pentium systems—which perform roughly 20 percent faster than 133MHz systems and cost only slightly more—are the obvious machines to get, and Micron's P166 Millennia is our system of choice. Cyrix's 133MHz 6x86 CPU throws a curve ball into the field too, however. Polywell's 6x86-equipped Poly 686P8 performed as well as many 166MHz Pentiums in our tests, and it costs less than many 133MHz Intel-based systems. That spells a potential price war for the near future, and buyers will benefit as the prices for these superfast systems begin to fall. A short wait might pay off if you're looking for a bargain.

If your main concern is power, a 200MHz Pentium Pro offers a simpler, albeit more expensive, solution. It runs Windows 95 applications about as fast as any 166MHz Pentium, and it makes Windows NT applications fly. Plenty of Windows NT users can justify a Pentium Pro's $3,700 to $7,800 cost with the work they do today, no questions asked. Many others can justify the Pentium Pro as a hedge against obsolescence. Once again, Micron leads the pack, this time with its Pro 200 Magnum Plus.

Lab testing was performed by IBRAHIM GUL.

DECISION MAKER

CHOOSE THE RIGHT **DESKTOP SUPERSYSTEM** FOR YOUR NEEDS

1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What operating system will you use?	4 For your needs, the best product is . . .
Price	Performance	Windows 95	MicroExpress MicroFlex-PCI/166
		Windows NT	Gateway 2000 G6-200
	Bundled Extras	Windows 95	Tagram Thunderbolt Virtual Studio P166
		Windows NT	Dell Dimension XPS Pro200
Performance	Price	Windows 95	MicroExpress MicroFlex-PCI/166
		Windows NT	Gateway 2000 G6-200
	Bundled Extras	Windows 95	Micron P166 Millennia
		Windows NT	Hewlett-Packard Vectra XU 6/200
Bundled Extras	Price	Windows 95	Micron P166 Millennia
		Windows NT	Micron Pro 200 Magnum Plus
	Performance	Windows 95	Micron P166 Millennia
		Windows NT	Micron Pro 200 Magnum Plus

"The Champ"

...of Windows 95 wipeouts. *PC Week, February 26 1996*

"★★★★★"

Computer Life, 1996

"Impressively thorough"

PC Magazine, April 1996

"Best of Breed"

... a clear winner.

PC World, June 1996

Remove-It

Includes BOTH Windows 95 *and* 3.1 versions!

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Every time you run your computer, all kinds of digital garbage piles up on your hard drive. Polluting your applications. Cluttering your memory. Slooooowing things down.

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Get Remove-It and take out the garbage today!

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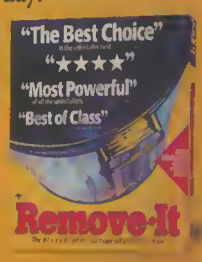
1-800-466-5875 Ext. 1105.



Circle 327 on reader service card.

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ComputerLife ★★★★★ BEST BEST EVERYTHING 1996

PCWEEKLABS ANALYST'S CHOICE FEB. 26, 1996

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STARTING AT

$2195

FASTER than a bolt of lightning, more powerful than a burst of thunder, ALR's EVOLUTION 6 series is taking the business world by storm. Featuring the power of Pentium® Pro technology with speeds of up to 200-MHz, these two new systems are going to improve the forecast for your business. Looking for the ultimate in Pentium Pro technology? The **ALR EVOLUTION DUAL6** is one of the industry's first PCs to offer an immediate upgrade path to dual Pentium Pro technology. In other words, you can get the power of a high-performance RISC-based workstation for thousands of dollars less. Its the power you need to take advantage of 32-bit operating systems such as Windows® NT, SCO® UNIX, and Novell® NetWare™ SMP. With room for up to 512-MB of RAM and over 16-GB of storage, the EVOLUTION DUAL6 has the performance and expandability you're looking for in a small business server. A suite of built-in Hardware Management Features prevents downtime by monitoring critical information such as CPU temperature, fan speed, and system voltage. Or just add a high performance PCI video card, and you've got the ultimate CAD, scientific or animation workstation.

ALR EVOLUTION DUAL6
150-or 200-MHz Pentium Pro Processor
Dual Pentium Pro Processor Ready
Mini Tower Model
16-MB ECC Memory
512-MB Max Memory
256-KB Integrated L2 Cache
PCI/ISA Bus Architecture
Six Total Storage Bays
Eight Total Expansion Slots
315 Watt Power Supply
5 Year/ 36 Month Warranty
First Year On-Site Service*

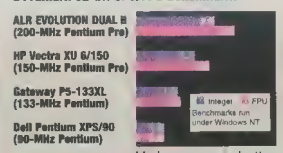
intel inside
PENTIUM PRO PROCESSOR

ALR EVOLUTION 6
150-or 200-MHz Pentium Pro Processor
Mini Tower Model
16-MB Memory
128-MB Max Memory
256-KB Integrated L2 Cache
PCI/ISA Bus Architecture
Six Total Storage Bays
Six Total Expansion Slots
200 Watt Power Supply
5 Year/ 36 Month Warranty
First Year On-Site Service*

Trying to fit Pentium Pro technology into a tight budget? Then check out the **ALR EVOLUTION 6**. This value-packed PC offers a 150-MHz Pentium Pro chip and 16-MB of RAM for as little as $2195 MSRP. Yet even at this low price, it takes full advantage of the Pentium Pro chip's most advanced features, including Dynamic Execution.

ALR EVOLUTION DUAL6

BYTEmark 32-bit CPU/FPU Benchmarks



Higher score is better.

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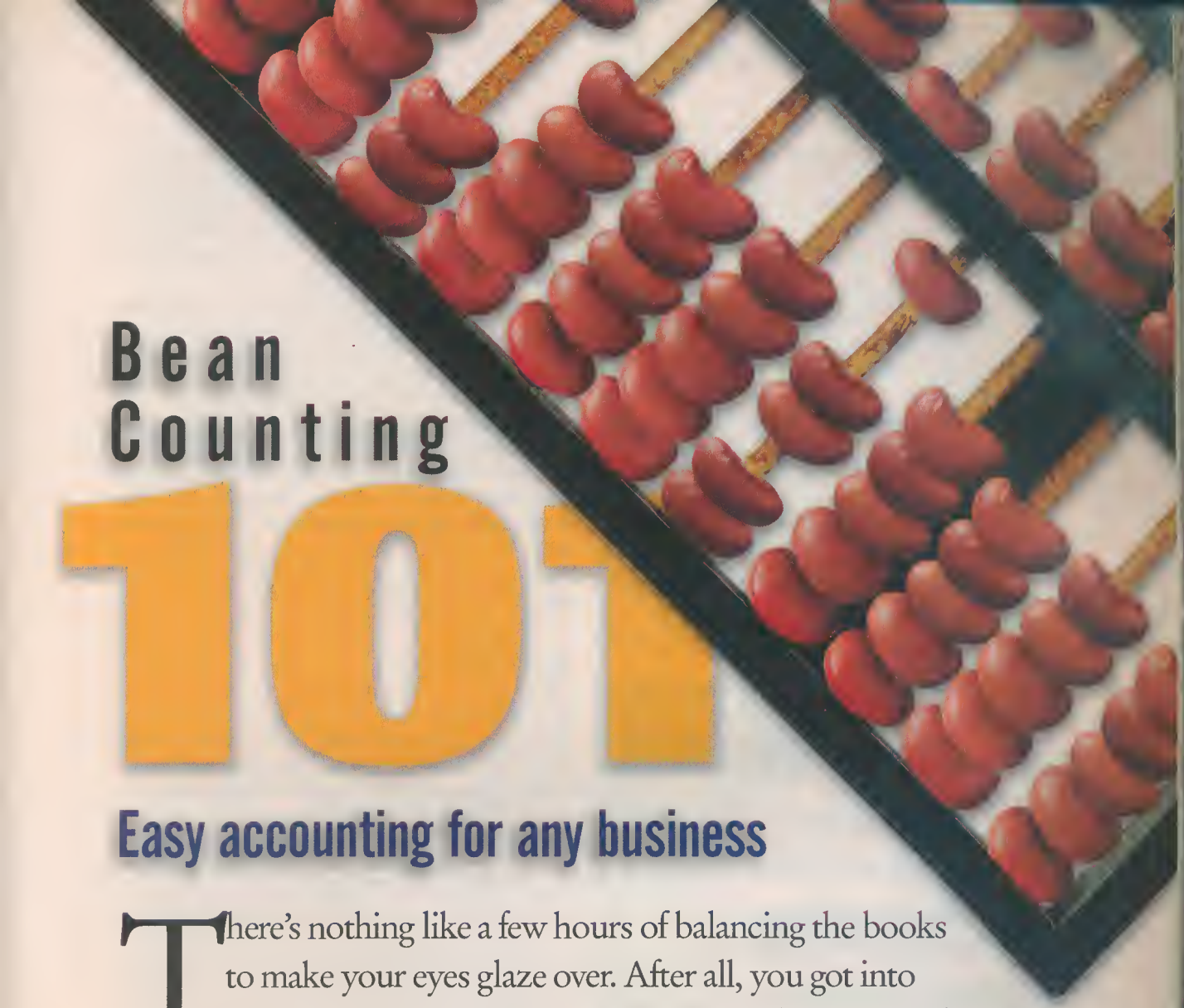


Bean Counting 101

Easy accounting for any business

There's nothing like a few hours of balancing the books to make your eyes glaze over. After all, you got into business to make money, not count it. What you need to make your life easier is a good accounting package—one that does more than crunch numbers. You need one that gives you important insight into your business, and tools that help you boost your bottom line. Today's best programs make the money-management process simple enough for anyone—even people who have trouble balancing a checkbook.

To see how accounting products have improved, we put the top three small-business accounting packages to the test in our Usability Labs. The results? Accounting may never be fun, but at least it can be easy.

BY MIKE HOGAN

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUPERSTOCK

Reviews: Run the Numbers with Ease

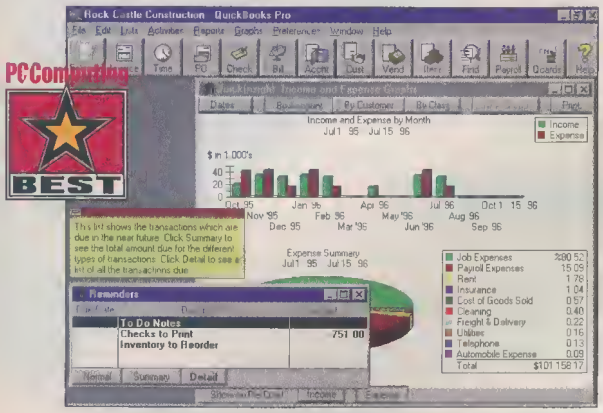
Accounting hasn't always been easy. Early accounting packages for the PC arrived as multimodule suites mired in a bog of accounting jargon and high prices. The products were often so complex that some users had to hire an accountant to use them. And why own an accounting package if you can't use it yourself?

If you think you can't afford dedicated accounting software, you can always do the books with a database or spreadsheet. But such ad hoc accounting methods usually come at the price of considerable programming time and endless hours of data entry.

It doesn't have to be that way. The latest all-in-one, small-business accounting packages have changed the rules by including high-end features, improving usability, and lowering prices. These new accounting programs come with user-friendly tools that combine the number crunching of a spreadsheet with the data retrieval of a database. Best of all, they cost less than what many accountants charge by the hour.

The three packages we tested—Intuit's QuickBooks Pro 4.0, BestWare's M.Y.O.B. Accounting with Payroll 6.0, and Peachtree Software's Peachtree Accounting for Windows Release 3.5—take a financial load off your shoulders. QuickBooks Pro's powerful reporting tools let you probe your assets, liabilities, and cash flow to uncover weaknesses in areas such as pricing policies and inventory management. And with just a couple of mouse clicks in M.Y.O.B. Accounting or Peachtree Accounting, you can tell if you're losing money on overage receivables, late-payment penalties, inadequate inventories, or missed discount and bid periods.

Of course, high-power tools won't do you any good if you can't figure out how to use them. Keeping track of money is vital to any business, but most people don't want to spend much time learning accounting. The best accounting packages use intuitive interfaces and clever navigational aids to streamline book balancing. As a result, you finish your accounting chores in record time, and get on to what you like to do—running your business.



Jargon-Free: Intuit's QuickBooks Pro comes with powerful tools that make it easy for anybody to do the numbers, and it stays away from CPA lingo.

Really Intuit Intuit's QuickBooks Pro 4.0 understands what you need. Based on a plain-English approach to accounting tasks and terms, QuickBooks Pro's menus and help screens automatically adapt to the type of business you select. Convenient drop-down lists and pop-up Qcards guide you from task to task. This top-notch package adds inventory management, integrated time-tracking, and even job-estimating tools that no other accounting program matches. QuickBooks Pro's Business Library even gives you a better idea of business opportunities you can afford to take and those you should probably avoid. No one likes cookie-cutter forms, and QuickBooks Pro lets you customize purchase orders, invoices, reports, and other documents. And customizing is far easier than with the other packages. Furthermore, if you get stuck in a task, you can have the appropriate audio advice talk you through

Usability Factors: Accounting Software

Our usability testers—small-business owners and employees with varying degrees of accounting and accounting-software experience—found something to like in all three accounting packages. Each program has the tools it takes to do common accounting tasks. When it was all over, however, QuickBooks Pro proved the most consistent performer.

Our testers did a variety of jobs in three areas—customizing forms and reports, entering data, and creating reports—and rated each package for ease of use. QuickBooks Pro's combination of powerful tools and easy-to-use features won over nearly all our testers. As a result, QuickBooks Pro earned our Usability Seal of Approval.

Customizing and Editing Forms

BestWare M.Y.O.B. Accounting 6.0	Intuit QuickBooks Pro 4.0	Peachtree Accounting for Windows 3.5
	Yes	

Do It Your Way: QuickBooks Pro makes it easy to customize and edit checks, invoices, and other business forms. As a result, our testers completed these tasks nearly 100 percent of the time. However, some testers ran into problems modifying forms in M.Y.O.B. Accounting and Peachtree Accounting, and these packages' help screens provided the right answers only about half the time.

the procedure while you work onscreen.

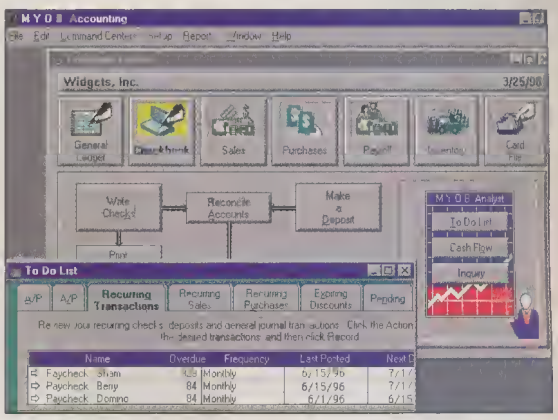
All these features add up to usability that helped make QuickBooks Pro the overwhelming market leader after only a few years on dealers' shelves. It is by far the easiest way to get basic accounting tasks done.

Something for Everyone QuickBooks Pro isn't everything to all people, though. If you place a high value on sophisticated financial-analysis tools, take a look at BestWare's M.Y.O.B. Accounting with Payroll 6.0. The program's Analyst feature provides context-sensitive, instant access to vital information—from inventory analysis to money owed and money due. The program's flowchartlike interface makes for easy navigation, and a wide assortment of daily-reminder and information-management tools help you keep track of critical tasks related to your business.

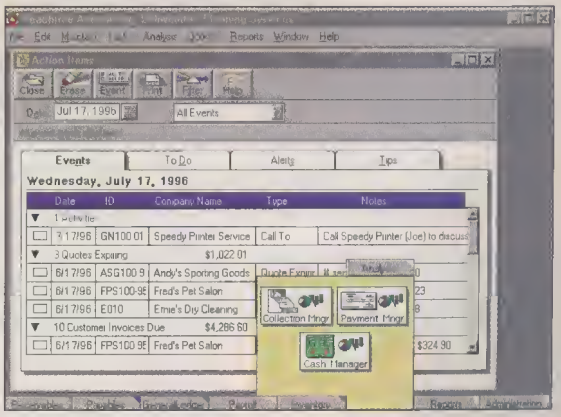
If you're looking for an accounting package that supports multiple users on a network, you'll find your needs met with Peachtree Software's Peachtree Accounting for Windows Release 3.5. This application's desktop folders give you quick access to features, and its Payment, Collection, and Cash Manager tools let you perform crucial tasks like bill payment and collection. But be prepared for a bit of accounting jargon. And if you hate writing and printing checks, you can use Peachtree Accounting's online bill-payment and payroll system.

While QuickBooks Pro, M.Y.O.B. Accounting with Payroll, and Peachtree Accounting are the market leaders, they aren't alone on store shelves. DacEasy's Accounting & Payroll 95 and Great Plains Software's Profit 2.1 support multiple users over a network. And CashGraf's Business Plus 4.0 adds full-featured word processing as well as database and information management to a quality accounting package. One-Write Plus 5.0 (acquired by Peachtree Software in March) provides an easy if limited introduction to accounting. That package and Computer Associates' Simply Accounting 3.0 win over some users with their low prices.

Still, most businesspeople will find their best deal in the complete feature sets and ease-of-use innovations of the trio we put to the test. And unless you need advanced financial-analysis tools or network support, nothing beats Intuit's QuickBooks Pro.



Stat Magic: M.Y.O.B. excels at analysis, but other features, such as data entry, need improvement.



CPA-Speak: Peachtree Accounting is filled with features, but it often relies on accounting jargon.

Entering Data

BestWare M.Y.O.B. Accounting 6.0	Intuit QuickBooks Pro 4.0	Peachtree Accounting for Windows 3.5
	Yes	

Try Again: All three products are designed to make data entry easier, but testers still cringed when punching in the numbers. Cluttered data-entry interfaces and confusing icons left users wishing for something simpler. Our testers found data-entry features to dislike in each program, but they found QuickBooks Pro's technique accessible enough to give it a passing grade, although barely.

Creating Reports

BestWare M.Y.O.B. Accounting 6.0	Intuit QuickBooks Pro 4.0	Peachtree Accounting for Windows 3.5
Yes	Yes	Yes

Make Your Statement: The accounting packages offer many ready-made financial reports. But once again users thought QuickBooks Pro superior to the others in both depth and usability. Testers gave M.Y.O.B. and Peachtree Accounting a passing mark, even though some testers tripped over confusing steps and were dissatisfied with the lack of details and options in the reports.

Usability Report Card

Intuit Tilts the Scales

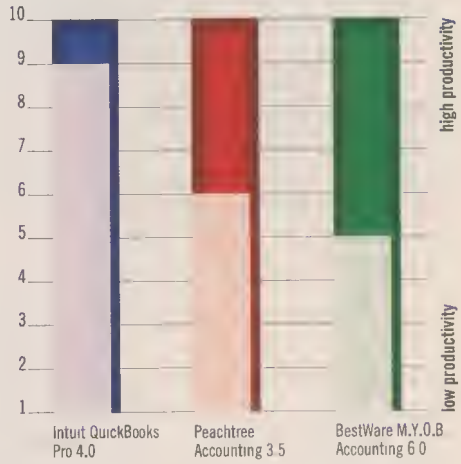
No accounting package will make you an instant CPA, but a good one will help you get a better handle on your finances—if you can figure out how to use it. So *PC Computing* assembled a panel of testers to try out the leaders in small-business accounting.

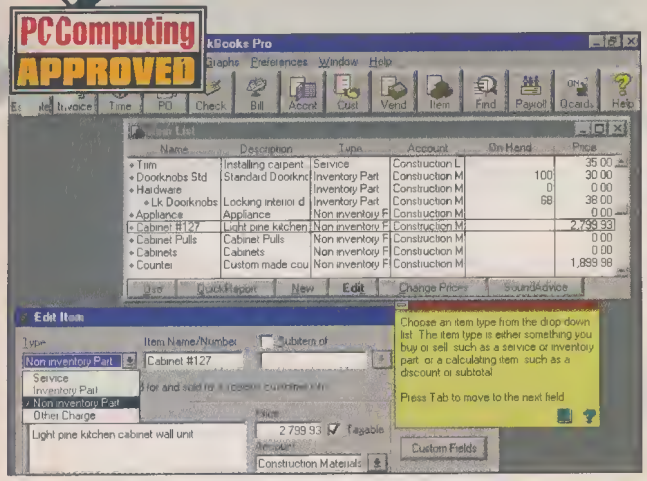
Our testers attempted accounting tasks in three areas—customizing and editing financial forms, entering data, and creating reports. The results are shown in our Productivity Index (right), which takes into account the technology and features of the product, the application's help functions, user satisfaction, and testers' task-completion rates.

Testers successfully completed the tasks with QuickBooks Pro more than nine times out of ten—compared with just under eight times out of ten with M.Y.O.B. Accounting and Peachtree Accounting. The gap yawned even wider when testers hit snags: QuickBooks Pro's help system came to the rescue nearly 50 percent more often than Peachtree Accounting's and almost twice as often as M.Y.O.B. Accounting's.

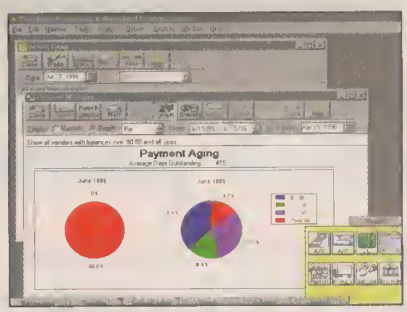
A plain-English approach won QuickBooks Pro points for not making the testers think like an accountant. In the end, QuickBooks Pro was the only package that walked away with our Usability Seal of Approval.

Productivity Index

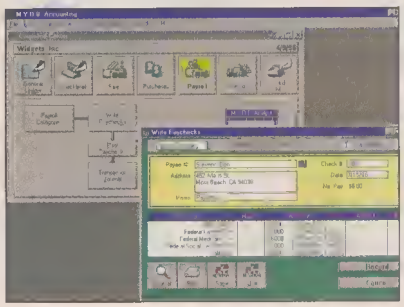




Sense of Balance: QuickBooks Pro's pull-down lists and helpful Qcards let you float through accounting chores and take advantage of powerful analysis tools. This slick package also makes it easy to customize forms and create reports. There's even a SoundAdvice help system that talks you through common accounting tasks.



Still a Contender: Despite its reliance on accounting jargon, Peachtree Accounting is easy to use and by far the best multiuser small-business accounting choice.



The Underdog: M.Y.O.B. needs a better help system, but its flowchart interface is a great road map to top-notch business evaluation and financial-analysis tools.

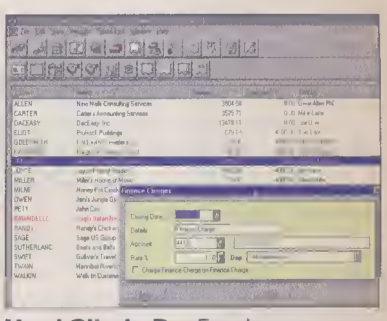
Top Small-Business Accounting Packages

Product	Price*	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Intuit QuickBooks Pro 4.0 (800) 816-8025 *Reader Service No. 724*	$189	Most advanced job-costing, time-billing, inventory-management, and payroll systems.	Single-user only; requires large amounts of disk space and memory.	★★★★★ A complete accounting solution that anyone can use.
BestWare M.Y.O.B. Accounting with Payroll 6.0 (800) 322-6962 *Reader Service No. 725*	$119	Easy interface; detailed financial analysis; Inquiry window tracks errors.	Weak data-entry features; subpar reporting tools.	★★★★ Strong analysis tools and good interface, but it needs a better help system.
Peachtree Accounting for Windows Release 3.5 (800) 228-0068 *Reader Service No. 726*	$129	Multiuser support; includes electronic payroll and bill-payment.	Too much accounting jargon; requires lots of disk space and memory; weak reporting.	★★★★ The best multiuser accounting package, but get out your CPA-to-English dictionary.
CashGraf Business Plus 4.0 (800) 872-4381 *Reader Service No. 727*	$179	Multiuser support; strong "what-if" tools and goal setting; integrated word processor and database.	No payroll; expensive for its limited accounting feature set.	★★★ This new entry should stick to accounting and lose the superfluous business applications.
DacEasy Accounting & Payroll 95 (800) 322-3279 *Reader Service No. 728*	$109	Multiuser support; wizards help solve common problems.	Clumsy interface; sparse menus; overused accounting jargon.	★★★ Broad feature set is hamstrung by a confusing interface. (Watch for an upgrade this fall.)
One-Write Plus 5.0** (800) 882-5254 *Reader Service No. 729*	$69	Split forms-and-register interface eases transition from paper accounting; cheap; audit trail without period closings.	No inventory module; sparse setup routines and program help.	★★★ Bare-bones accounting at a rock-bottom price. (Watch for an updated version from Peachtree Software.)
Computer Associates Int'l Simply Accounting 3.0 (800) 773-5445 *Reader Service No. 730*	$69	Inexpensive; includes inventory and payroll.	Confusing icon-based interface.	★★ Even the basics are too basic.
Great Plains Software Profit 2.1 (800) 926-8962 *Reader Service No. 731*	$299 (with payroll)	Multiuser support; compliant with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.	Expensive; no tools for job estimating, time tracking, or job costing.	★★ Only CPAs need apply.

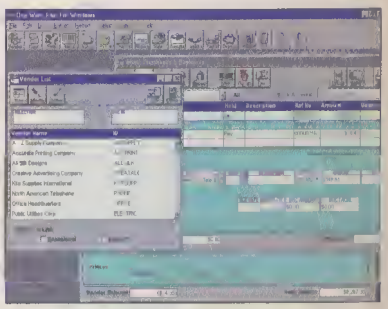
*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE **ACQUIRED BY PEACHTREE SOFTWARE IN MARCH

★★★★★ *Excellent* ★★★★ *Good* ★★★ *Acceptable* ★★ *Poor* ★ *Unacceptable*

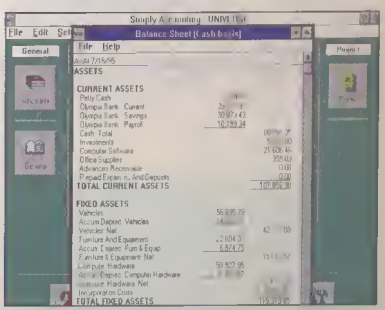
Don't Leave Home: Business Plus combines office-productivity applications with accounting.



Hard Climb: DacEasy's Accounting & Payroll supports networks, but it can be hard to use.



Accounting by Numbers: One-Write Plus offers basic tools for balancing the books.



Simple Simon: Although Simply Accounting is inexpensive, it needs a features overhaul.

Get a Grip on Your Money

It's hard to fight momentum, and Intuit's popular QuickBooks Pro 4.0 has captured a majority of the accounting market in just two years. Its dominance is also evident in our usability results: Six out of nine testers chose QuickBooks Pro as their favorite accounting program.

But QuickBooks Pro faces stiff competition. Accounting veterans and businesses that rely heavily on statistics will appreciate M.Y.O.B. Accounting's top-flight analytical tools. But M.Y.O.B.'s maker, BestWare, needs to improve usability features—such as relatively weak reporting tools—to pose a serious alternative to QuickBooks Pro.

Look to Peachtree Software's Peachtree Accounting for the best multiuser package. But you may need to learn some accountant-speak to get the most out of it.

In the end, the majority of our testers prized manageable data entry and powerful but flexible forms and reports above anything else. But the market has decided—and our usability testers agree—QuickBooks Pro is the easiest way to do your books.

So should you switch your accounting program? If you want to try out only a few new features, you probably won't find the move worthwhile. But the sooner you get started on a new accounting package, the easier the transition from a paper system will be. At less than $200 each for the top apps, the outlay won't drain your bank account. And the ease-of-use features will save you more than just time—they'll save you headaches.

You don't have to choose exclusively from the market leaders, either. Small businesses with limited accounting requirements—and budgets—may find just what they need in one of the other packages listed in the table, "Top Small-Business Accounting Packages" (page 173). For instance, you may spend more on pens and paper in a year than you would for the $69 One-Write Plus. But if you take your accounting seriously—and don't want to make it your career—you can't go wrong with QuickBooks Pro.

MIKE HOGAN *is a freelance writer and a regular contributor to* PC Computing. *Usability testing was performed by* LULIT BEZUAYEHU *and* LYDIA M. KARLOWICZ.

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1 Choose the factor that's most important.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	4 For your needs, the best product to buy is . . .
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Features	Usability	Error Correction	QuickBooks Pro 4.0
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	Price	Error Correction	QuickBooks Pro 4.0
		Flexibility	Peachtree Accounting 3.5
Price	Usability	Error Correction	QuickBooks Pro 4.0
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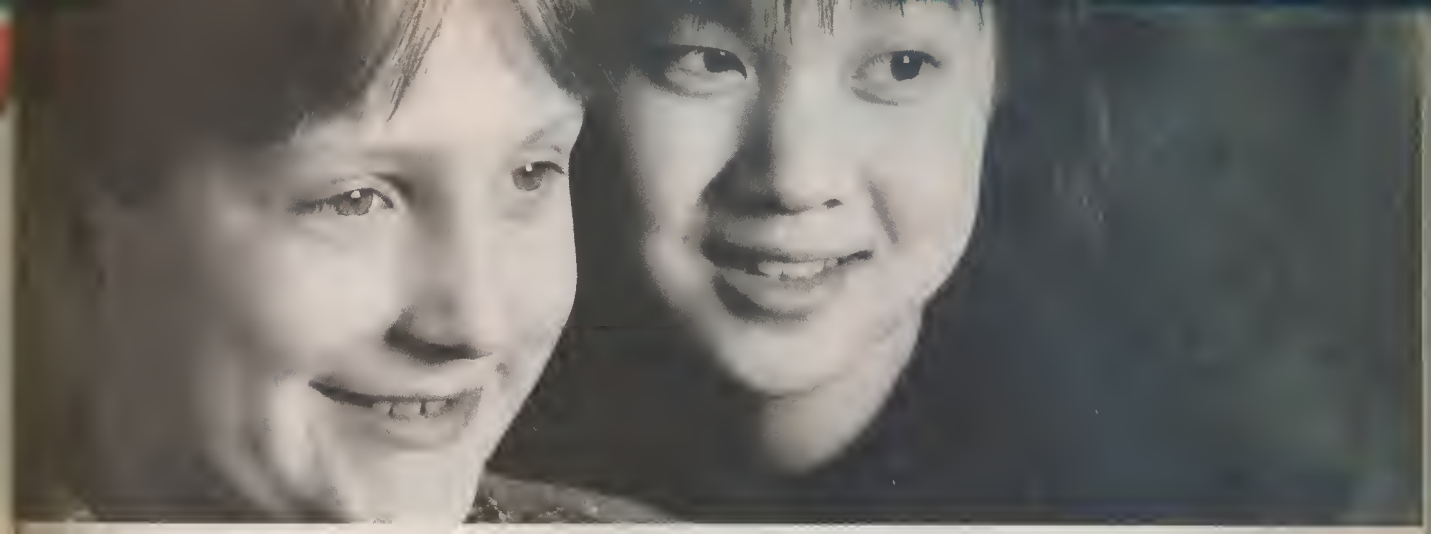
	Features	Error Correction	Peachtree Accounting 3.5
		Flexibility	M.Y.O.B. Accounting with Payroll 6.0



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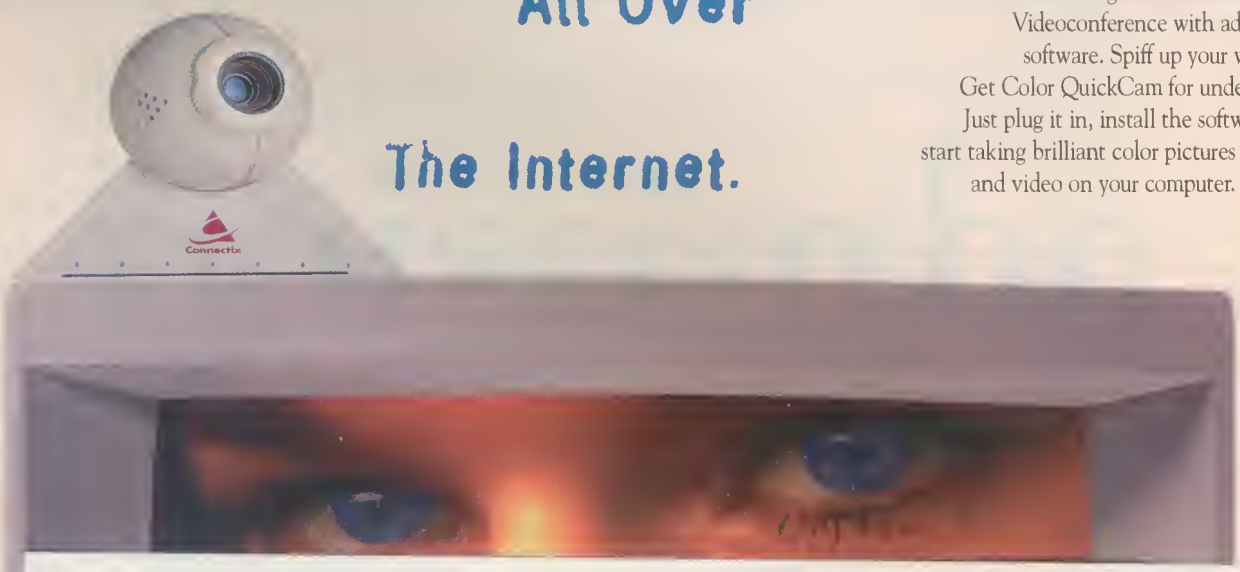

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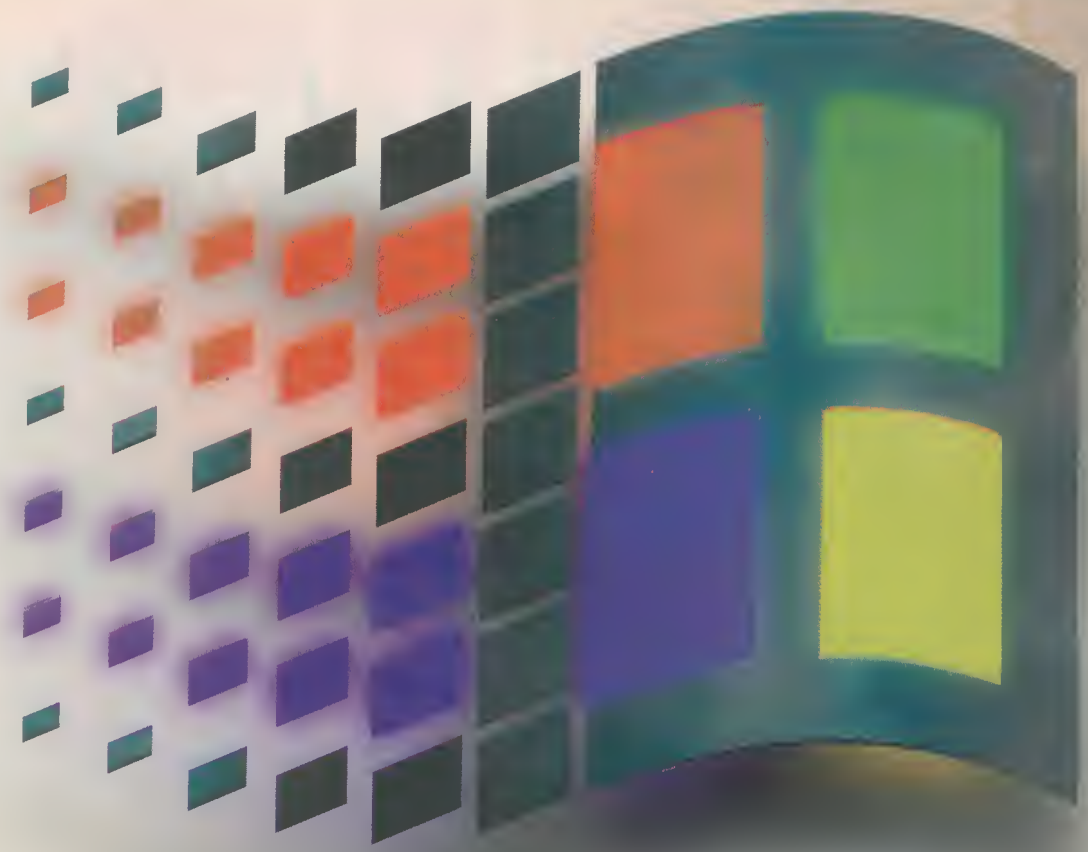

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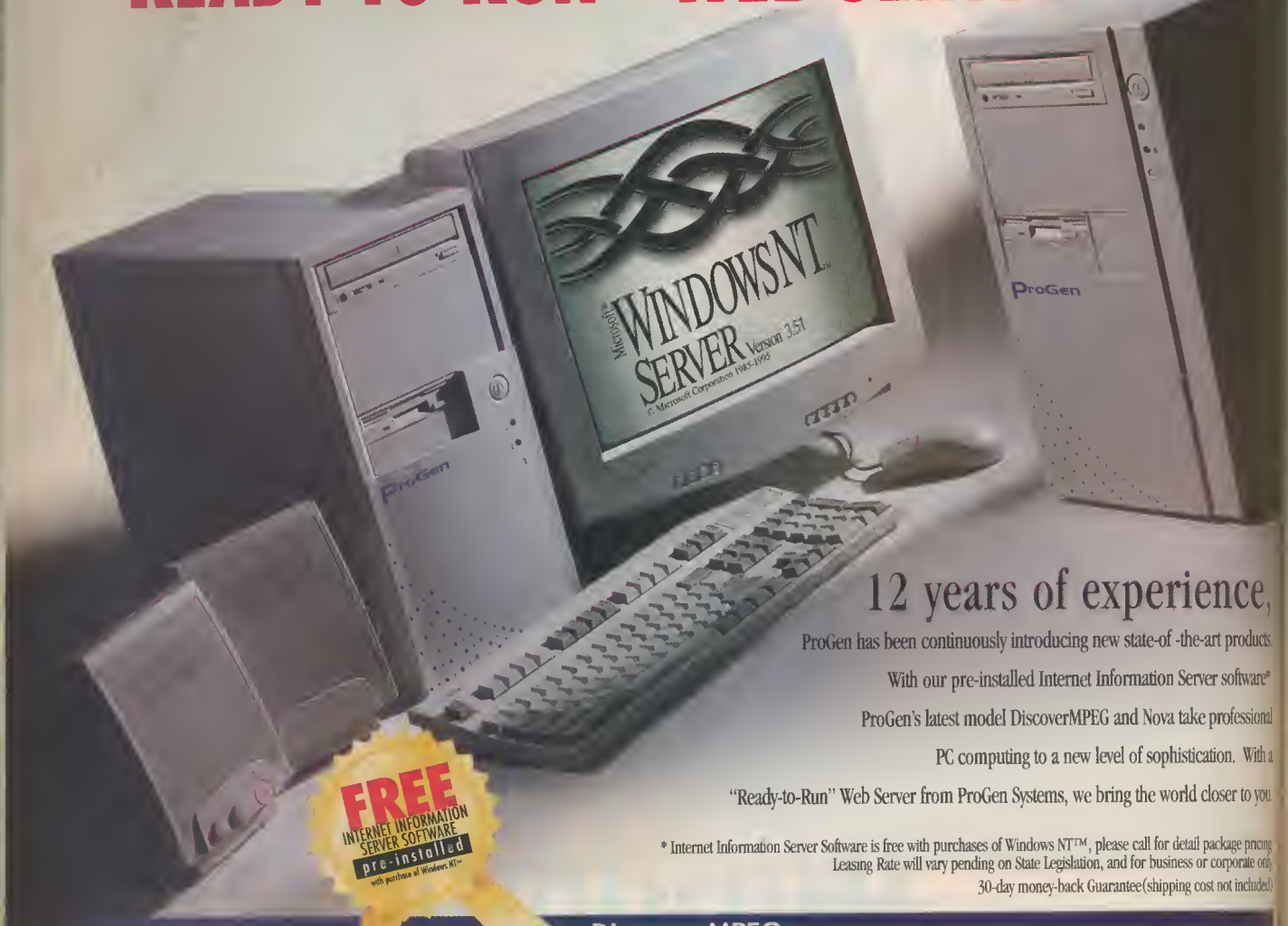

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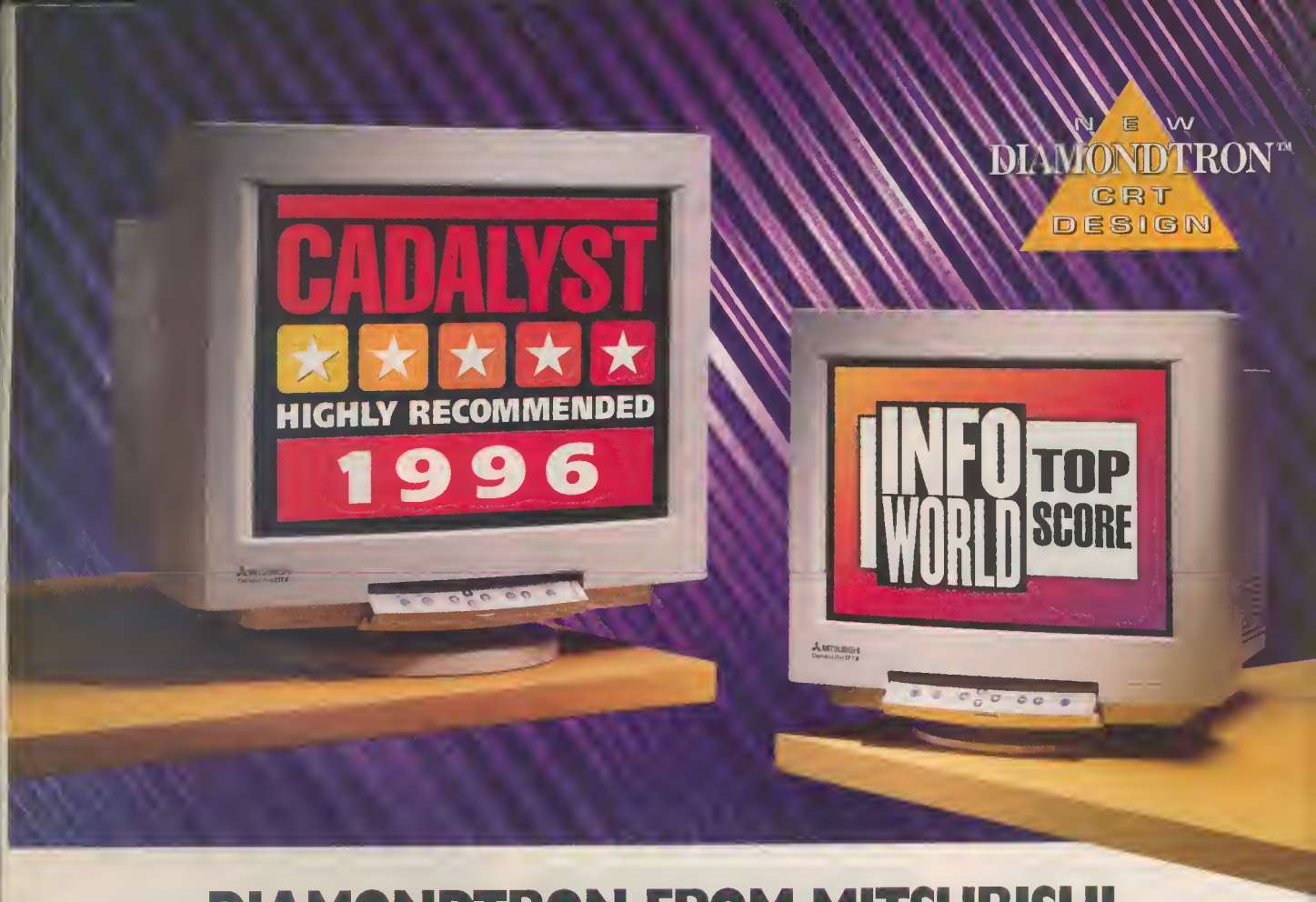

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Diamond Scan 20H	20"/18.6" DVI*	1600 x 1200/65 Hz NI	H:30-82 kHz, V:50-152 Hz	$1,699.00
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Diamond Pro 17TX	17"/16.0" DVI*	1600 x 1200/66 Hz NI ,	H:30-86 kHz, V:50-152 Hz	$1,059.00
Diamond Pro 21TX	21"/19.7" DVI*	1600 x 1200/75 Hz NI	H:30-93 kHz, V:50-152 Hz	$1,899.00

* DVI: Diagonal Viewable Image. Certain non-standard timing formats will reduce Diagonal Viewable Image.

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Circle 318 on reader service card.

 More reviews on page 188

AUTHORING TOOL

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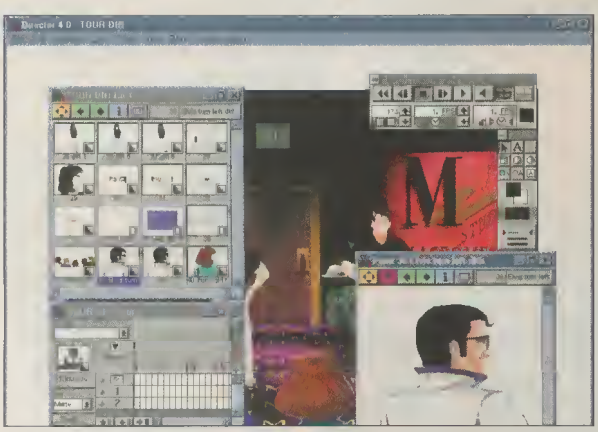
Macromedia's Director 5 has taken the World Wide Web by storm (see "Web Publishing Comes Alive," May, page 70). Everywhere you surf, you notice Shockwave-enhanced pages full of music, animation, and interactivity. Ready to try your hand at making multimedia? Unfortunately, the professional version of Director costs around $850—not exactly pocket change. But if you have kids in school, you're a teacher, or you're taking a class, you can get a copy of Director Academic 4 for a mere $99.



A collaborative agreement between Macromedia and Prentice Hall provides site licenses of Director Academic to any academic institution or a single copy to any student. The hitch? You probably can't create full-scale commercial CD-ROMs, since you're allowed only 500 frames and 100 cast members per movie. But to create your average interactive vignette, Director Academic is perfect. And it has more than enough power to create a simple game, presentation, or Web site. Also, Director Academic includes more tutorial material than Director 5. In the Academic version you'll find five manuals, an interactive tutorial, and a sampling of students' work.

If you plan to upgrade to the full version, Director Academic is an excellent way to begin making multimedia. It's also a handy way to learn Director itself, especially with all the tutorial materials that are included. JACK LYON

FILEBOX

Director Academic 4

Pros: A nearly full-featured version of Director for just $99; plenty of tutorials.

Cons: User must be affiliated with an academic institution.

Verdict: An abridged version of the ultimate authoring tool.

$99 est. street price
Macromedia/Prentice Hall
(800) 887-9998, (201) 236-3459
Reader Service No. 761

MULTIMEDIA ADVENTURE GAME

The Dig

If you like adventure games that combine science fiction with complex puzzles, you'll love LucasArts Entertainment's The Dig. An exciting story line and challenging puzzles quickly pull you into The Dig's fast-paced action, unique sound effects, and rich graphics.

Based on a story idea from film director Steven Spielberg, The Dig's futuristic plot is deceptively simple: A giant asteroid is on a collision course with a big blue marble (Earth), threatening to annihilate every living thing on its surface.

Your goal? To nuke the asteroid named Attilla to little bits, thereby saving planet Earth. To accomplish this, you join a NASA shuttle mission that flies you to Attilla.

The first half-hour of the game is a movielike introduction to the story line and the characters. After some fiddling with the controls, you learn to access and use dozens of tools for everything from blowing up Attilla to controlling the communication between characters.

As the game progresses, the plot gets more complex and so do the puzzles, which you must solve for the game to continue. If you're looking for shoot-'em-up action, you'll want to avoid The Dig. But if adventuresome science fiction is what you crave, and you enjoy solving clever puzzles with outer space as the backdrop, get a copy of The Dig right away. RICH SCHWERIN

FILEBOX

The Dig

Pros: Interesting story line, rich soundtrack, and complicated puzzles.

Cons: Slow introduction and plodding plot will try your patience.

Verdict: Dig it! An amazing work of entertainment and challenge worth every penny.

$45 est. street price
LucasArts Entertainment
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Reader Service No. 762

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- 1,000 photos
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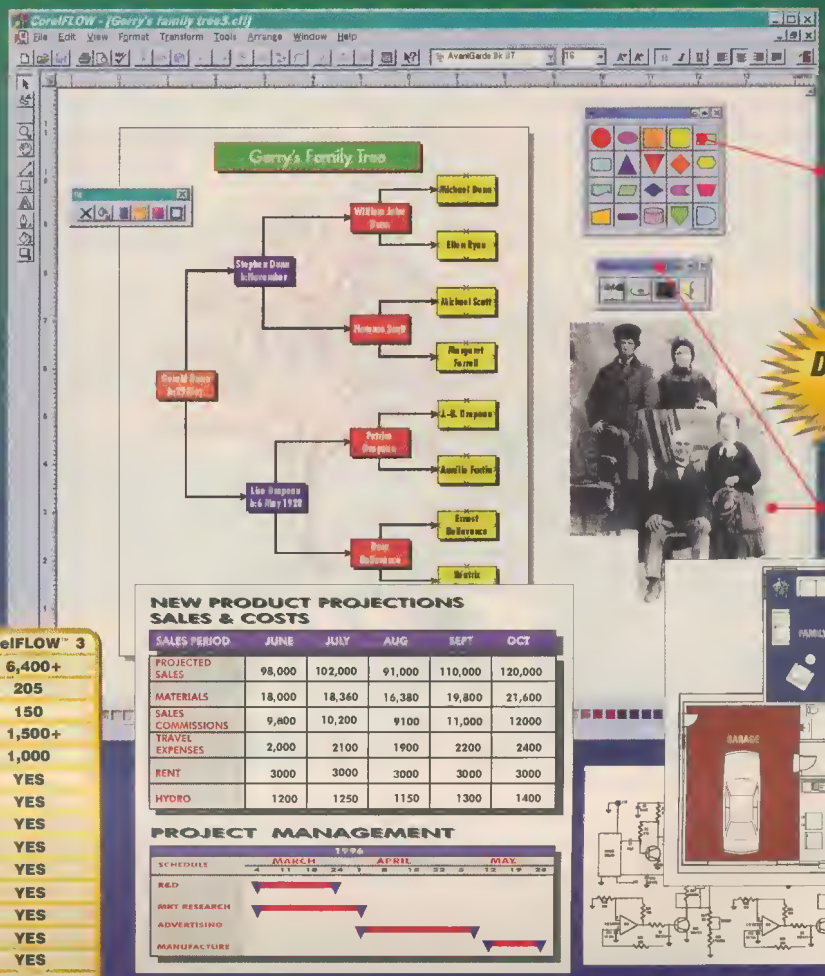

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Easy-to-use Wizards let you create intricate family trees, timelines and calendars in a few steps.

Create diagrams quickly with more than 6,400 drag and drop symbols from 205 Smart Symbol Libraries.

FEATURE	CorelFLOW™ 3
Symbols	6,400+
Smart Symbol Libraries/Stencils	205
Fonts	150
Clipart	1,500+
Photos	1,000
Live repeating line patterns	YES
Polygon tool	YES
Fountain fills	YES
Center and repeating arrows	YES
Hyperlinks	YES
Dynamic print preview	YES
Multiple shadows	YES
Thesaurus and Type Assist	YES
Live auto-line routing	YES
Script editor	YES
Number of color models supported	8

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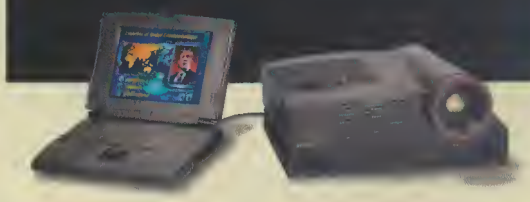

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"Print Screen" In Windows; Just Like You Did In DOS!

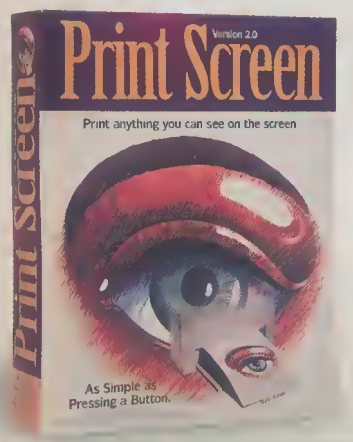
Print Anything On Your Screen—With Just A Keystroke!

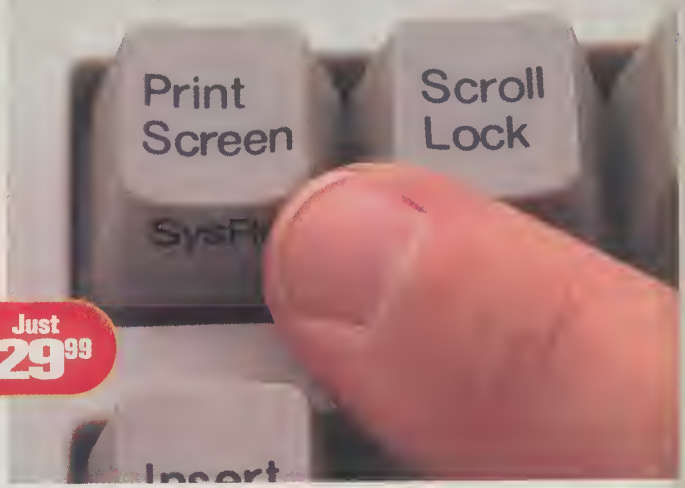
Think back...way back to when DOS roamed the earth. One of the great things about DOS was the "Print Screen" key. All you had to do was touch that key—and whatever was on your screen shot out of your printer (remember how fast things printed before Windows?). Here's a new software title that gives Windows users the ability to "Print Screen" from Windows—just like you did in DOS. And with Windows—and the Internet, World Wide Web and other on-line services—we need "Print Screen" more than ever!

Introducing Print Screen, a new program that will instantly *print all Windows screens with the press of a button.* So simple to use, you'll use it often. No wonder it's one of the industry's hottest titles—with over a thousand uses in your home, small office or boardroom. Print Screen is specifically designed for all Microsoft Windows platforms, including Windows 3.x and Windows 95. Ideal for use in presentations, memos, letters, reports and more. Print information from cool Web sites, AOL pages—even wild CD games. Remember—anything you can get on your screen, you can print! When you need to give a staffer some specific information, just print it from your screen and get the job done! We've often wondered why Windows overlooked our favorite little key—and we're happy to have it back, in the form of Print Screen. We love to use Print Screen for:

- ***Surfing the Internet***
- ***Running CD games***
- ***Creative projects***
- ***Using Online services (AOL, CompuServe, Prodigy, etc.)***
- ***Working on the network***

Print Screen is a must-have utility for every Windows user! It's perfect when you're surfing the Internet and you discover a great-looking home page, or you see a picture of a new product you just have to know more about. Eliminate the hassle of downloading massive files—just print it! You'll be amazed at how often you'll use Print Screen when you're on-line (and you'll save hundreds of dollars in wasted connect time).When you're running your favorite CD-ROM software and you want to share an exciting moment with someone else (to prove you really did make it to the 25th level), just hit a key for an instant printout. You can capture all the information you need permanently on paper from online services such as America OnLine, CompuServe, and Prodigy, plus bulletin boards too. In the past, this kind of printing convenience was impossible in Windows—but now it's one click away! Operates seamlessly on all Windows platforms: Windows 3.x, Windows 95, Windows NT and Windows for Workgroups.





"Print Screen is an excellent utility that brings your Print Screen key back to life under WIndows by printing the active window or full screen either to a printer or a fax driver."

— PC Magazine, February 20, 1996

"It works. It does exactly what it is supposed to do. No more, no less. No problems. Hmmm. This could spell the end of technical support departments as we know them. Nice work."

— Rick Segal
Director, Educational Initiatives
Microsoft Corporation

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- ***Print*** To any printer or fax; portrait or landscape. You have complete control of the final output.
- ***Fast Printing*** Sends your Print Screen image to any Windows printer faster than ever before. No endless waits! This speed makes Print Screen a very handy tool.
- ***Reverse...*** improves output quality on low resolution printers by printing the negative of a Print Screen Image.

Features:

- **Auto Save The entire screen or the active window to a .BMP file which can be read by most Windows programs.**
- **Print To any printer or fax; portrait or landscape.**
- **Fast printing Sends your Print Screen image to any Windows printer faster than ever before. No endless waits!**
- **Reverse... improves output quality on low resolution printers by printing the negative of a Print Screen Image. Print Screen has a thousand uses—get this effective utility today! A smash hit new title!**
- **Runs on Stand-A-Lone & Network PC's**

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It's The World's Fastest Computer:
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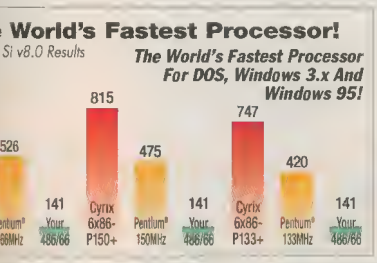
The Next Generation In PC Technology Is Here Today! The Cyrix 6x86 Beats The Pentium! Prices Start At Just $549.99. Outstanding Value!

Want to run Windows 95 on the world's fastest computer? You can with these hot new processors from Cyrix! The new Cyrix 6x86 series have been tested, proven, and are now ready to run on your desktop like nothing you've ever seen before. Cyrix is faster than the Pentium. Faster than the Pentium Pro. Faster than any other PC on Earth for running DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, and all your favorite applications. And at this low price, this easy-to-install upgrade is unbeatable.

It's Easier Than You Think! Today's PCs are amazingly easy to remove and install parts This kit includes a Cyrix CPU already mounted on a PCI motherboard, installed in this roomy case with power supply. You simply remove the hard disk, video card, floppy drive and RAM chips from your old PC (just a few screws and cables) and slip them into this hot new 6x86. It's easy! We've even included a video to show you how.

6th Generation Speed Devours The Pentium! The Cyrix 6x86 is proven compatible with Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows for Workgroups, Windows 3.1, 3.0, DOS, NetWare and OS/2. Check the specs and you'll see the Cyrix is faster than any other PC processor. The Cyrix 6x86 processors are the absolute fastest available for both 16 and 32-bit Windows applications—the kind businesses use both now and in the future. Technically speaking, the 6x86 has features found only in the Pentium Pro and the Macintosh's PowerPC 604 chips. But unlike the Pentium Pro, the 6x86 is optimized for 16-bit and 32-bit Windows software. The fact is, Intel's Pentium Pro was built for systems that don't exist on the desktop yet. Cyrix's 6x86 was built for Windows 95, Windows 3.1 and DOS—all the applications that are important today and for many years to come. The 6x86 includes an 80-bit FPU for math calculations, 32 registers (versus 8 in the Pentium), dual pipelines for twice as many instructions as the Pentium, and lots of other technical advances. Bottom line: the Cyrix 6x86 is the fastest, fully compatible x86 processor in the world. Runs Windows 3.1, 95, NT, OS/2...

How about the motherboard? The world's fastest processor deserves the world's best motherboard. The Intel Triton chipset is the industry's most trusted, high-performance chipset for super-fast PCI bus speeds. The 256K of pipelined, write-back SRAM is the fastest made. It supports the fastest EDO RAM (or your existing RAM). The 16550 Serial ports and high-speed Parallel port are the best to be found. The onboard 32-bit PCI controller delivers maximum throughput for the fastest hard disks. With an Enhanced IDE hard disk, your data moves at over 16MB/second, easily 5 times faster than earlier hard disks. Even the BIOS Setup is amazingly easy. Use your mouse (or keyboard) to click once on "Auto Hard Disk Detect" and you're done installing a new bigger-than-a-gig drive. It's everything you'd expect from the world's fastest Windows PC



"The Cyrix machines tested produced some of the best Winstone 96 and WinBench 96 scores that PC Labs has ever seen!" —**PC Magazine**

MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE

Processor	BUS	ZIF Socket	Slots	Plug & Play	Max DRAM	EDO RAM Support	SIMM Sockets	Write Back Cache	Flash AMI BIOS	2-Serial 1 Parallel	E-IDE Controller	Case Design	Power Supply	Kit Item#	Kit Price
6x86-P133+	PCI	Yes	4PCI, 4ISA	Yes	128MB	Yes	4	256 Pipelined	Yes	Yes	4	Mid	200	A113-8633	$549.99
6x86-P150+	PCI	Yes	4PCI, 4ISA	Yes	128MB	Yes	4	256 Pipelined	Yes	Yes	4	Mid	200	A113-8650	$615.99
6x86-P166+	PCI	Yes	4PCI, 4ISA	Yes	128MB	Yes	4	256 Pipelined	Yes	Yes	4	Mid	200	A113-8666	$849.99

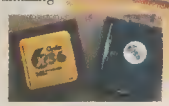
Own A 6x86 For $399.99

Incredible Price Breakthrough On The New Cyrix 6x86. World's Fastest Windows PC! Why Not Own The Best—For Just $399.99

Why The Cyrix 6x86 Is The Fastest... The Cyrix 6x86 has architectural features not found on any other processor. Compared to the Intel Pentium... well, there isn't much of a comparison. The Cyrix 6x86 is much closer to Intel's latest Pentium Pro (P6) than the standard Pentium. But the Pentium Pro is not a good choice for today's software. It isn't optimized for x86 software—which includes all DOS, Windows 3.x and Windows 95 software. It's well known that the Pentium Pro runs Windows 20% slower than even the standard Pentium. Unfortunately, the Pentium Pro was designed for operating systems that aren't really operating yet. On the other hand, the Cyrix 6x86 *is* optimized for x86 software. The Cyrix 6x86 has the same advanced features of Intel's Pentium Pro, but they're all tailor made for the kind of applications you use. So when the game is to run DOS, Windows 3.x and Windows 95 applications, the Pentium Pro isn't even in the right ballpark. And the Cyrix 6x86 wins the pennant for the world's fastest processor. ***Superscalar*** *architecture provides two pipelines to execute multiple instructions in parallel. This means faster processing.* ***Superpipelining*** *increases the number of pipeline stages to avoid execution stalls. This allows the Cyrix 6x86 to perform a cache access in one clock cycle, versus the two clock cycles required on the Pentium.* ***Out-of-order-completion*** *lets the faster instruction exit the pipeline out of order, saving processing time without disrupting the program flow.* ***80-bit floating point unit*** *(FPU) makes the Cyrix 6x86 perfect for CAD, spreadsheets, databases and all applications designed for serious number crunching. All told, the Cyrix 6x86 is the best choice for all of today's operating systems. Not just DOS and Windows 95, but also OS/2, Solaris, UNIX, NextStep and many more. And the Cyrix 6x86 makes the perfect network server. Performs flawlessly with Novell NetWare, Banyan Vines, Microsoft LAN, Windows NT.*

High-Performance Motherboard

You get the both of best world's with this amazing offer: the world's fastest processor in its class, and a high-performance, top-quality motherboard. For starters, you'll love the added performance the onboard PCI Controller delivers. Together with an Enhanced-IDE hard disk, you'll witness data transfer rates over 16 MB/second—easily 5 times faster than earlier hard disks. And large 1 or 2 GB hard disks install with a single click—totally automatic. The printer port is the latest ECP/EPP design, which moves data over 10 times faster than earlier parallel ports. You get faster printing, faster parallel drive backups and more. The two serial ports contain top-notch 16550 UART chips, which are vital to reliable modem tranfers at 28.8KB/second. The Plug and Play BIOS automatically configures PCI cards for hassle-free installation.



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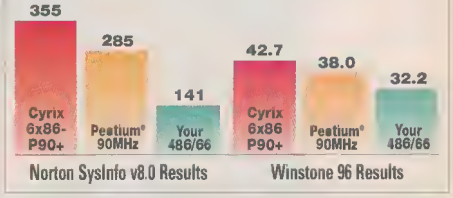
Cyrix

Item #	Processor	Speed (MHz)	Bus	Case	Power Supply	Price
A115-1090	Cyrix 6x86	P90+	PCI	Mid Tower	230 Watt	$399.99
A115-1092	Cyrix 6x86	P90+	PCI	Motherboard Only		$319.99

Cyrix Beats The Pentium!

The Cyrix 6x86 P90+ is the fastest in it's class. Bar none!



Winstone 96 testing proved it! Cyrix outruns the Pentium! It's the ultimate processor upgrade!

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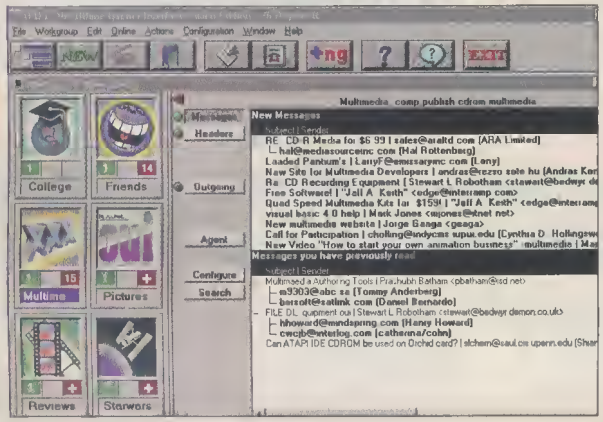
Offline Usenet

Eager to see what you've been missing in the Internet's Usenet newsgroups? Afraid of wading through tens of thousands of messages while your online clock is ticking? Dvorak Development's Offline Usenet Interface (OUI) gets you involved in the latest discussions taking place in one of the oldest and largest areas of the Internet—newsgroups. Haven't you gone long enough without reading alt.os.windows.crash.crash.crash and alt.collecting.8-track-tapes?



After you configure OUI you send it out on the Net, where it automatically downloads headers of messages based on the groups and subjects you specified, then quickly logs off. Your task is simple: You look at the headers and select which messages you want OUI to retrieve for offline reading. As any good newsreader should, OUI keeps track of ongoing threads, and allows easy message posting, message decoding, and graphics viewing. It also lets you send private e-mail messages.

Getting started with OUI takes some work, but the online help provides enough support to set up and learn the program. Using OUI is quick, easy, and efficient, and you save money every time you use it. Download your trial copy of OUI from www.pccomputing.com or www.dvorak.com.

JILL COOK

FILEBOX

Offline Usenet Interface

Pros: Save money by reading your favorite Usenet messages offline.

Cons: Setup is tricky.

Verdict: A great way to make Usenet newsgroups more manageable and slash your online costs.

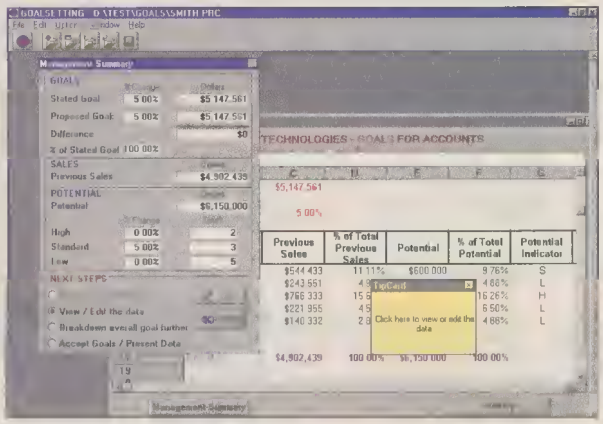
$49 est. street price
Dvorak Development
(303) 661-0345
Reader Service No. 763

BUSINESS SALES

Goalsetting

Setting an organization's sales goals often feels like an exercise in voodoo economics. Part intuition and part educated guess, sales projections typically reflect management's desire for sales growth but leave the sales team with unrealistic objectives. To make sense of the process, Goalsetting from Young & Associates considers data from both management and sales to arrive at realistic figures.

Goalsetting asks questions about the organization's goals for growth and market penetration, sales team projections, sales history, and the market's raw sales potential. The program accepts imported Excel spreadsheets and ASCII data.



Goalsetting takes two approaches to calculating sales figures: a top-down method that emphasizes management's goals, and a bottom-up scheme that focuses on the sales staff's projections. The result is a summary screen displaying the calculated sales goals, which helps you resolve differences between goals and estimates. From the data in this screen you can create spreadsheet-style or chartlike reports.

If sales forecasting causes frustration in your business, you should consider Goalsetting. It provides clear-cut tools that let you outline where you want to go, and what you need to do to get there.

WAYNE KAWAMOTO

FILEBOX

Goalsetting

Pros: Lets you consolidate information to set realistic sales goals.

Cons: Takes some time to understand the concepts.

Verdict: A useful tool for resolving sales-projection discrepancies between management and sales.

$299 est. street price
Young & Associates
(800) 553-2503, (708) 573-2500
Reader Service No. 764

"TriSpectives…deserves the killer-app label!"

Stanford Diehl, **BYTE Magazine**, October 1995

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★★★★ Publish 1996

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Virtual worlds for the Internet

Complete assembly modeling

Professional illustrations - in 3D!

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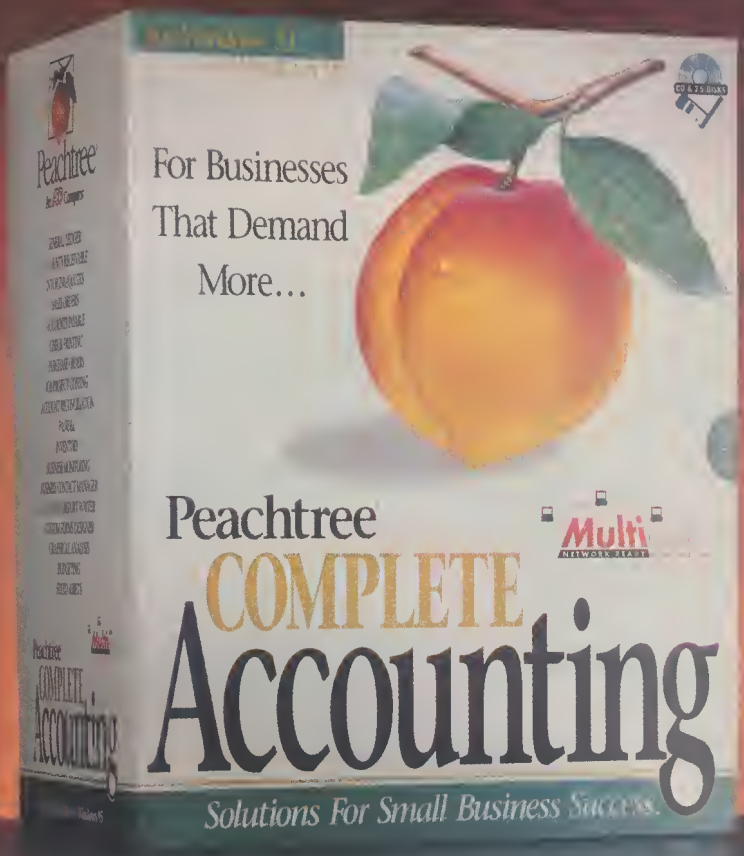

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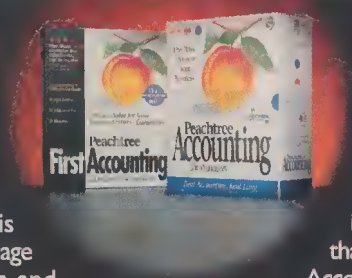

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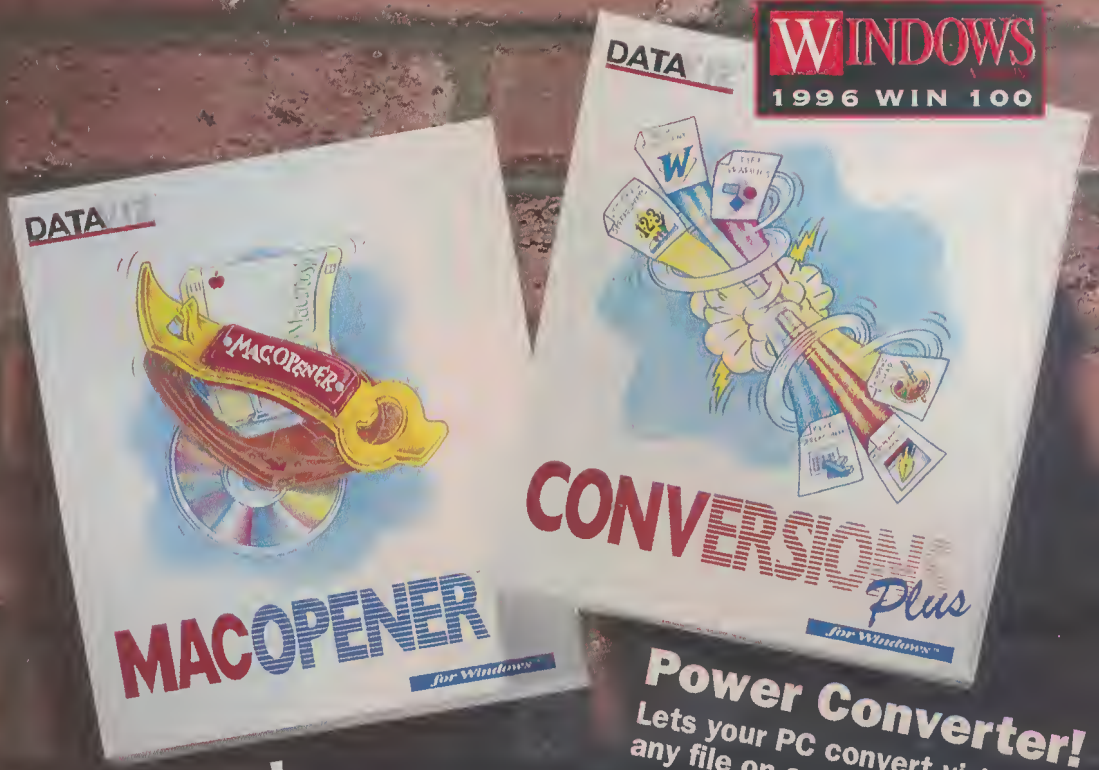

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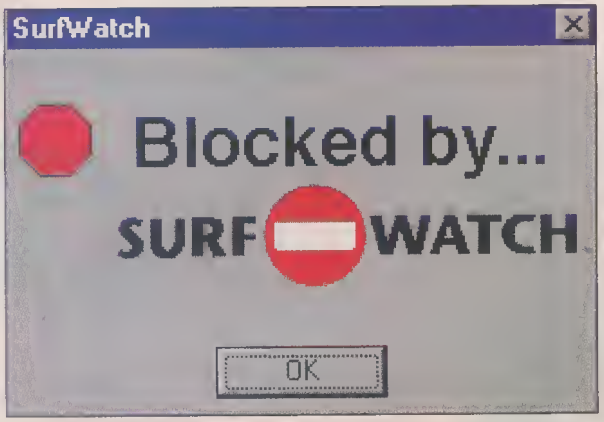
INTERNET PROTECTION

SurfWatch 1.0

Are you a parent, an educator, or an employer concerned about the sexually explicit and offensive material on the Internet? Do your children log on to the Internet when you're not around? SurfWatch Software has a solution designed for you: software programmed to block sexually explicit material on the Net.

SurfWatch 1.0 is preloaded with a list of sites that the developers consider unacceptable for children. There's a password-protected switch you can turn on to block access to unwanted material. When a child, a student, or an employee tries to log on to a locked site, a message onscreen notifies them that the site is blocked by SurfWatch.



SurfWatch comes with thousands of predefined World Wide Web, FTP, Gopher, and chat sites. It also screens newsgroups that are likely to contain sexually explicit material.

Unlike other Internet protection packages, SurfWatch doesn't let you add lists of sites you wish to block. Rather, SurfWatch offers a subscription service to get updated lists of sites for $5.95 a month. You can also purchase a customized list directly from SurfWatch Software. A drawback to this method is that there may be other sites you wish to block, such as those that contain racist or other offensive material. Nonetheless, SurfWatch does offer a viable and easy-to-use method for monitoring online activity. LULIT BEZUAYEHU

FILEBOX

SurfWatch 1.0

Pros: Blocks more than 10,000 sexually explicit Internet sites.

Cons: Doesn't let you add your own sites to the list.

Verdict: Great way for all concerned adults to block sexually explicit Internet sites.

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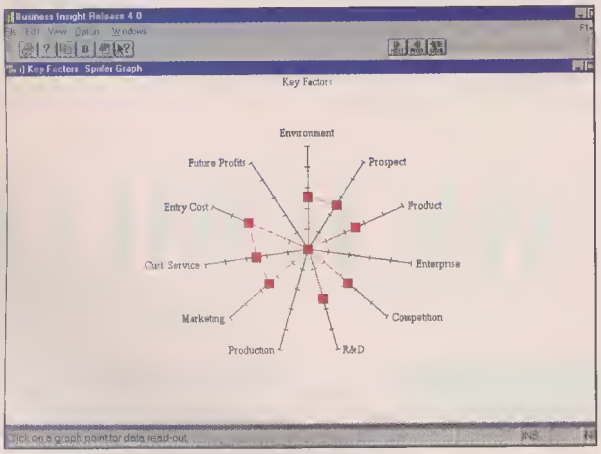
The developers of Business Insight picked the brains of over 40 marketing experts and codified their knowledge in a database of rules. The program asks you a series of detailed but straightforward questions about your business, products, finances, and personnel. You can rate your answers based on the degree of confidence you have in them.



After gleaning as much information as possible about your product or company, Business Insight applies its rules to produce a series of detailed reports. The reports are comprehensive and instructive, although the language in them is somewhat stilted.

Even if you choose not to follow Business Insight's advice to the letter, the exercise of answering its questions about your business will almost certainly help you build a better marketing plan. And at $495, it's cheaper than hiring a consultant. LEANDER KAHNEY

FILEBOX

Business Insight 4.0

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Cons: Expect to set aside ten hours or more to answer all the questions.

Verdict: Turns half-baked ideas into marketable plans.

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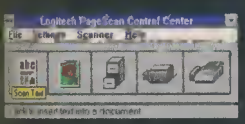

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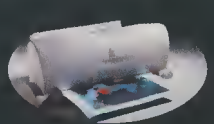

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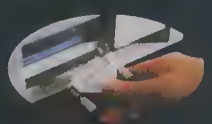

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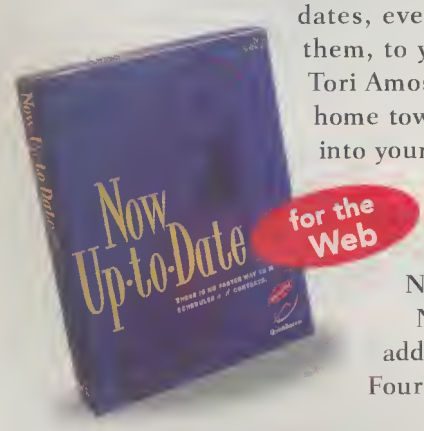

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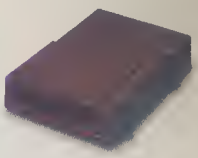

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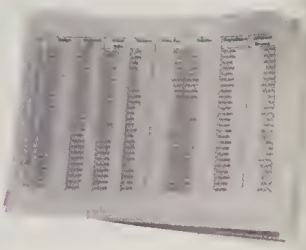

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Monty Anderson
MJA Design, Ltd.
Chesapeake, VA

MiniCad 6

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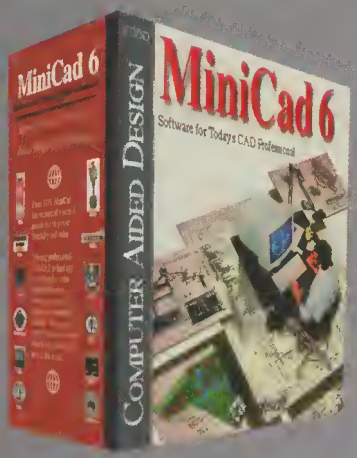
THE FULL-FEATURED CAD PROGRAM with INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS



MiniCad 6: THE Complete CAD Package!

MiniCad 6 has just what you're looking for: a complete 2D/3D drafting environment, a powerful database allowing you to generate estimates, schedules, reports and more, and a built-in macro language to automate routine drafting tasks...even digital terrain modeling! All highly organized and easy-to-use. AND...full file transfer capabilities to other major programs!

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Our FREE Toolkit is packed with thousands of symbols, tools, commands, templates, parametrics, formatted reports, worksheets and sample files targeted at specific industries. No extra symbol libraries to buy! Fewer hassles and more time to design — so much of the work has been done for you. These specialized feature sets are powerful, complete and solidly integrated into MiniCad 6, giving you the design flexibility and targeted industry solutions you need.

An Aggressive Company With 11 Years of CAD Experience

Now in its 11th year, Graphsoft's MiniCad is the best-selling CAD program on the Macintosh, utilized by design professionals in over 80 countries and 12 languages.

Try It Risk-Free for 30 Days!

When you buy MiniCad 6 from a participating dealer, you'll get Graphsoft's no-hassle 30 day money back guarantee. You'll also get 18 months of free technical support, a 24 page quarterly newsletter and multi-media CD that covers the operation of each tool and command, and working MiniCad files from around the world.

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Circle 292 on reader service card.

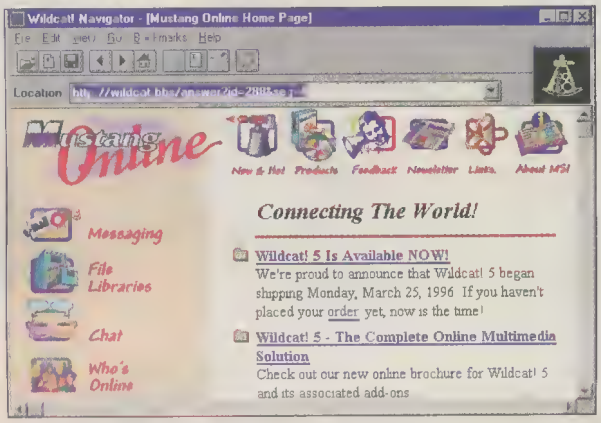
Mustang Software and Maximizer Technologies *More reviews on page 214*

BBS SERVER

Wildcat 5

Whether you're building an online community or creating a storefront in cyberspace, Mustang Software's Wildcat 5 BBS server is a tempting solution. The new 32-bit version adds Web access to an already powerful messaging environment.

Most BBS companies, including Mustang, were caught off guard by the surging popularity of the World Wide Web and the advent of Windows 95. Wildcat 5 makes serious inroads on both counts. As with a traditional Web server, you can use Wildcat 5 to serve up static HTML pages. Moreover, Wildcat offers all the communication features you'd find in a traditional BBS server—e-mail, file attachments, individual and group address books, instant paging, conferences, forums, plus both real-time public and private chat.



Unlike traditional BBS systems, which can require proprietary browsers, Wildcat 5 is smartly designed to work with any Web browser. One drawback to Wildcat is the per-user pricing. For $149, the basic package includes two nodes—only two people can connect to your server at a time; a 32-node pack (the maximum) costs $699.

Wildcat 5 is the right choice for BBS sysops who want to upgrade to a 32-bit, Web-enabled system. And because you can use Wildcat 5 with any browser, you don't need to make any surfing sacrifices. **RICH SCHWERIN**

FILEBOX

Wildcat 5

Pros: E-mail, chat, forums, and a Web server—all in a 32-bit package.

Cons: Sold on a per-connection basis.

Verdict: A smart choice for sysops looking for Web links to their BBS.

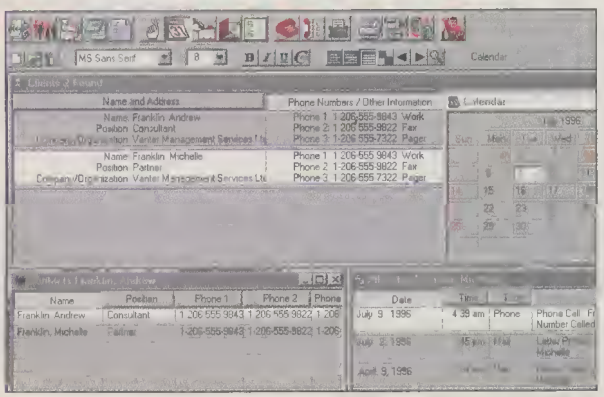
From $149 (2 nodes) to $699 (32 nodes)
Mustang Software
(800) 999-9619, (805) 873-2500
Reader Service No. 767

CONTACT MANAGER

MultiActive Maximizer

Tying a product to the Internet is the marketing strategy du jour in the business world. Sometimes, however, that Internet angle seems like an afterthought, as companies try to take advantage of the online craze. Still, there are many Internet-ready products that help your business benefit from online resources. MultiActive Maximizer 3.0is fits in that category.

Maximizer 3.0is adds Internet features to Maximizer 3.0, the 32-bit contact manager Maximizer released last year. If you run a small business and make a lot of sales calls, you'll appreciate the Internet component.



With Maximizer 3.0is you can tap into the MultiActive Eagle database from the Maximizer Web site. This database contains 10 million complete listings for U.S. businesses. You can search and download the listings to create mail, fax, or e-mail merges to reach potential clients. If you don't have a program like Symantec's Delrina WinFax that can send large fax batches, you can use the Xpedite feature in Maximizer 3.0is to send large orders to a third-party faxing service.

Other strong features include customizable data views and networking for an unlimited number of users. Competitive contact managers, like Janna's Contact 95, do everything but the Internet for less money. But if you need that Internet edge for your sales calls, Maximizer 3.0is will work for you. **JULIE POLITO**

FILEBOX

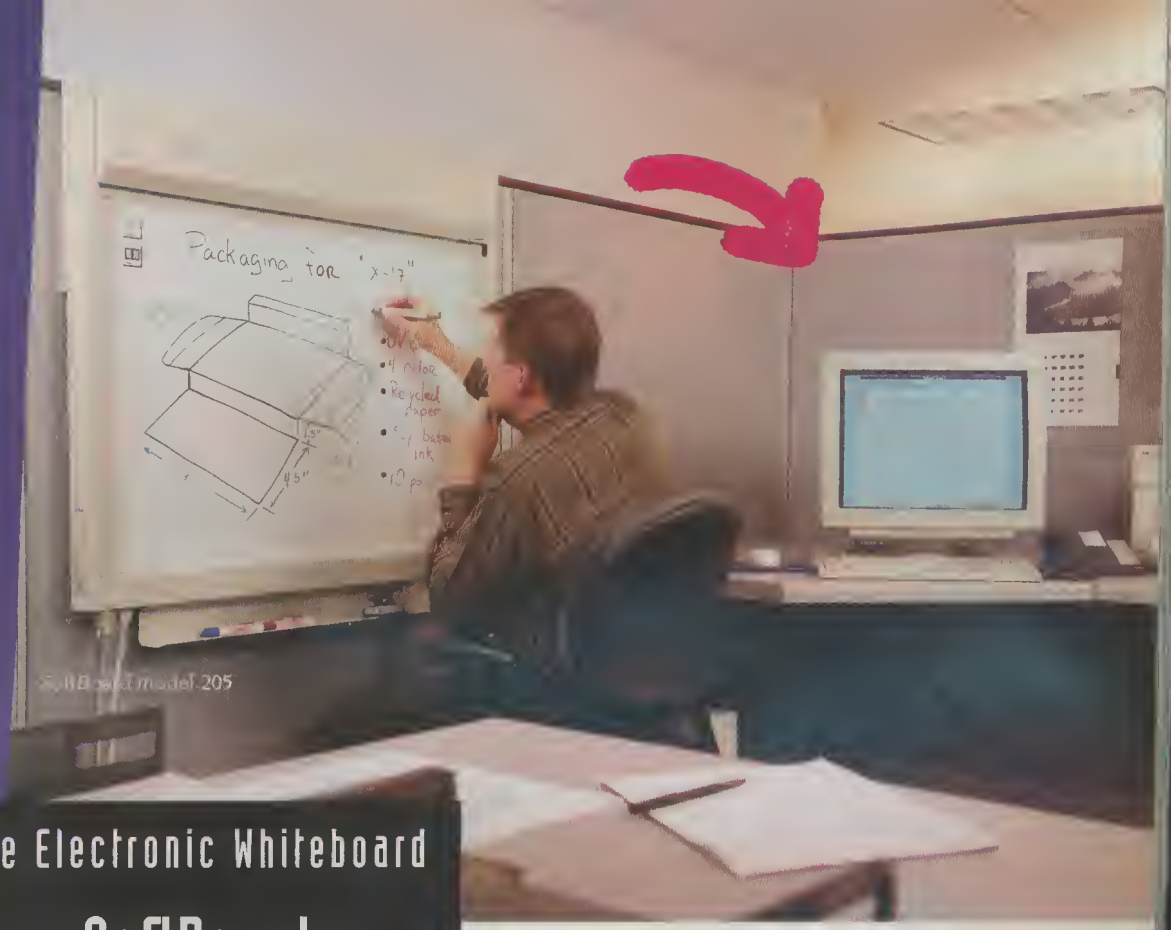
MultiActive Maximizer 3.0is

Pros: MultiActive Eagle database and Xpedite help with mass mailings.

Cons: There's a small charge for each download (18 or 35 cents, depending on category).

Verdict: Great for small-business mass mailings.

$149 est. street price
Maximizer Technologies
(800) 804-6299, (604) 736-9666
Reader Service No. 768

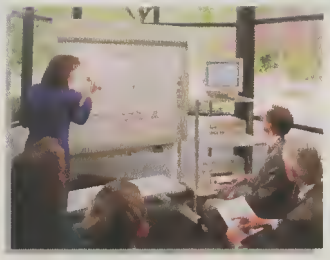


The Electronic Whiteboard

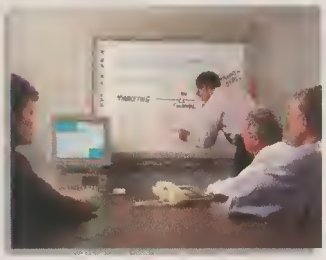
SoftBoard

For Windows & Macintosh

Imagine the project where you all have the same vision, the same objectives, and the same notes.



Mobile SoftBoard model 203



SoftBoard model 201 using SBRemote conferencing software

SoftBoard® only *looks and feels* like an ordinary whiteboard Whatever you create on a SoftBoard appears instantly on your Windows™-based PC or Mac®. Once it's there, you can save it, print it, cut and paste it, e-mail it, fax it, even network it to multiple sites. Use SoftBoard in collaborative discussions and brain-storming sessions. You can share information, create new ideas and keep records without tedious transcribing.

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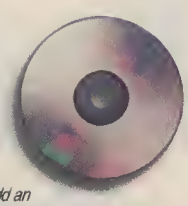
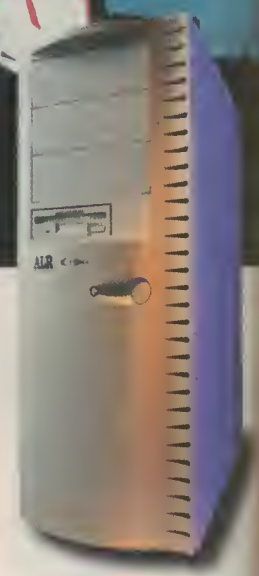
With its **133-MHz** *Pentium processor, the ALR OPTIMA MT puts extra kick in all your favorite applications.*

The **1.6-GB** *hard drive offers olympic sized storage for today's larger programs and operating systems.*

200 Watts *of power, with six drive bays and five expansion slots, the OPTIMA MT goes that extra mile.*



Add an ***8X CD-ROM*** *drive for as little as* ***$149***



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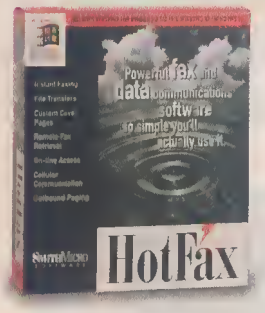

Upgrade from your old fax software to the one product that handles all of your fax, data and paging communication needs for Windows 95, 3.1x and NT.

For ten years, Smith Micro Software has been providing communications software products to users around the globe. From our perennial best-selling QuickLink to our newest releases, over 20 million users worldwide own Smith Micro software titles.

HotFax is Smith Micro's integrated fax, paging and data communications product for Windows 95, 3.1x and NT. Features include extensive logging, caller ID support, distinctive ring, chat mode and more. HotFax even adds "Fax" to Windows menus, saving you time by not having to change print drivers back and forth each time you fax.

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With Windows 95, HotFax routes MS Exchange mail to alphanumeric pagers. It also supports direct outbound numeric and alphanumeric paging.

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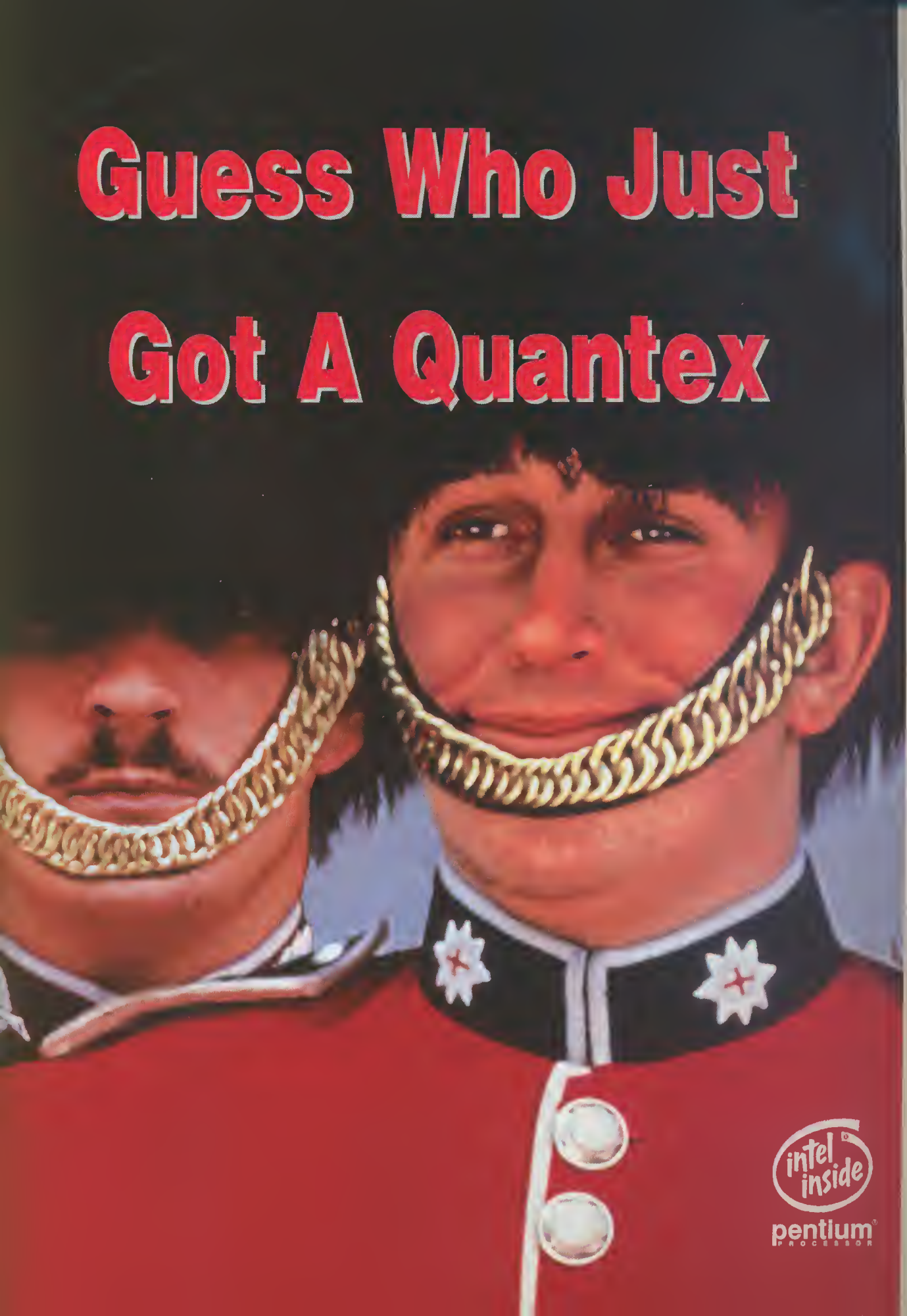
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PROCESSOR

Quantex Makes A

Once he got his Quantex, this Beefeater knew that his days as a member of the Royal Guard were numbered. Whenever he'd think about his Quantex, he couldn't help but smile. After all, he'd just made one of the smartest buys since computers were invented. And it wasn't just the price, but the features and technology, too. Dollar for dollar, feature for feature, Quantex can't be beat. So after decades of spurning tourists trying to twist his mouth into a grin, his stony visage has fallen. If only he'd bought another brand, he'd have kept that unflappable frown.

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(All sales are subject to Quantex's standard limited warranties and terms and conditions of sale. Copies of the limited warranties may be obtained by calling Quantex. On-Site Service may not be available in certain remote areas, and is available only if determined necessary by technicians.)

"The QP5/150 SM-2 is a brute that will keep the competition on its toes" (May '96).

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Got a serious need for speed? For all-out performance in advanced 32-bit software, the Pentium Pro Processor can't be beat. Utilizing new Dynamic Execution processing techniques and an integrated L2 cache, Intel's newest CPU actually exceeds the performance levels of proprietary RISC workstations at a fraction of the price. And because it's fully compatible with preexisting applications yet designed for up and coming 32-bit software, this system will lead the pack for a long, long time to come. We at Quantex have incorporated the Pentium Pro processor into complete power desktop systems for the ultimate in speed, reliability, accessibility, and flexibility. So if you're looking for cutting edge, check out our Pentium Pro processor-based offerings.

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QP5/150 M-2.....$1999
QP5/166 M-2.....$2149

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- 512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
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TOP VALUE

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

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- 16MB EDO Memory
- 512KB Pipelined Burst Coche
- 2GB EIDE Mode 4 Hord Drive
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- STB PowerGroph 64-Bit 3D Video w/2MB EDO DRAM (True Color Video Ployback)
- 17" .26dp MAG1280x1024 Monitor
- 28 8 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail & Speakerphone
- Toshibo 8X 160ms EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 16-Bit Wavetoble Sound Cord
- Altec Lonsing ACS-31 Speokers w/Subwoofer
- Mini-Tower Cose
- 104-Key keyboord & Microsoft Mouse
- Windows 95 with Microsoft Plus!
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QP5/133 M-3.....$2249
QP5/166 M-3.....$2499

QP5/166 M-4 $2699

- Intel 166MHz Pentium processor
- Intel 430VX PCI set
- 24MB EDO Memory
- 512KB Pipelined Burst Coche
- 2.5GB EIDE Mode 4 Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- STB LightSpeed 128-Bit Video w/2MB MDRAM
- 17" .25dp MAG Technitron Monitor (Bosed on Advanced Sony Trinitron CRT)
- 28.8 Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail & Speakerphone
- Toshibo 8X 160ms EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 16-Bit Wovetoble Sound Cord
- Altec Lonsing ACS-31 Speokers w/Subwoofer
- Mini-Tower Cose
- 104-Key keyboord & Microsoft Mouse
- Windows 95 with Microsoft Plus!
- Fomily Softwore Bundle (preinstalled)

QP5/120 M-4.....$2399
QP5/133 M-4.....$2449
QP5/150 M-4.....$2549

QP6/200 SM-2 $3399

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- Intel 200MHz Pentium Pro processor
- Intel 440FX Chipset
- 32MB RAM
- 256KB Internol L2 Coche
- 2.5GB EIDE Mode 4 Hord Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- Matrox Millennium 64-Bit 3D Video w/2MB WRAM
- 17" .25dp MAG Technitron Monitor (Based on Advonced Sony Trinitron CRT)
- 28.8 fax/modem w/voice mail & speokerphone
- Toshibo 8X 160ms EIDE CD-ROM Drive
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QP6/150 SM-2.....$3049
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QP6/200 WS-2 $4199

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- Intel 200MHz Pentium Pro processor
- Intel 440FX Chipset
- 32MB RAM
- 256KB Internol L2 Coche
- 4GB Fost Wide SCSI Hord Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- Adaptec 2940W PCI Wide SCSI Controller
- Matrox Millennium 64-Bit 3D Video w/4MB WRAM
- 17" .25dp MAG Technitron Monitor (Bosed on Advonced Sony Trinitron CRT)
- Toshibo 6.7X 145ms SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- Upgrade to Panasonic PD/CD-ROM for $199 more
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Family Software Bundle

- Novell PerfectHome: PerfectWorks; Memphis Math; Write With Me; Grammatik; Clip Art for the Home; Clip Art for the Office; Read With Me 1 & 2; PerfectWorks for Kids
- Quicken SE
- Comptons Interactive Encyclopedia
- Comptons Zoo Explorer
- Comptons Reference Collection
- BodyWorks 5.0
- Me & My World Multimedia Picture Dictionary
- New Riders Official Internet Yellow Pages & Win95 Premier Combo
- America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe (one month trial membership to on-line services)
- NetCruiser Plus (Free Internet Access of over 400 hours for one month)
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0

Professional Software Bundle

- Corel WordPerfect Suite: Corel WordPerfect 7; Corel Quattro'Pro 7; CorelFlow 3; Corel Presentation 7; SideKick 95; Dashboard 95; Envoy 7; Netscape (AT&T WorldNet Services); Corel Screen Saver; 150 Fonts; 10,000 Clip Art Images
- Corel Internet Mania
- Corel Print House
- Quicken SE
- Comptons Interactive Encyclopedia
- Comptons Reference Collection
- SharkWare (Top-Selling Contact Manager)
- PFS Business Plan
- Astound (#1 in Multimedia Presentations)
- Instant Resume
- New Riders Official Internet Yellow Pages & Win95 Premier Combo
- Key Master Maps
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- NetCruiser Plus (Free Internet Access of over 400 hours for one month)
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 2.0

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- Conner Tape Backup 850MB.....Add $149
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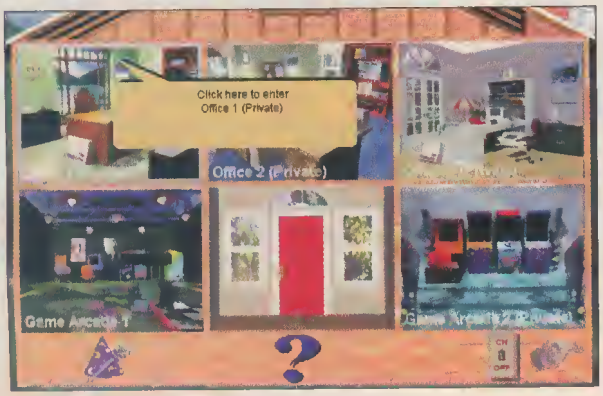
SYSTEM SECURITY

KidSecure

As much as you'd like to believe the family PC is yours, chances are you share it with several people, including your kids. So how do you make sure those all-important Quicken files or Excel spreadsheets aren't accidentally deleted when you're not around to supervise? Alpha Software's $30 KidSecure for Windows 95 is a useful package for parents who want to restrict their kids' access to specific files and areas on the computer.

KidSecure works by setting aside ten virtual rooms or work spaces within Windows. You'll find three offices for Mom and Dad's productivity software, two bedrooms for young adults and kids, a playroom with a child-friendly interface, two arcades for computer games, and a toolshed for system utilities. Bookshelves and file cabinets in the offices let you store additional programs and files.



You designate someone to be the head of the household. He or she sets up the rooms and access privileges so that, for example, a child cannot enter a parent's work space without a password. You can also configure KidSecure to require a parent's password to gain access to the Internet.

The only drawback to KidSecure is the elaborate setup: Customizing rooms and assigning access privileges for several family members takes the better part of an afternoon. But it's time well spent, since KidSecure keeps critical files and programs out of harm's way.

LULIT BEZUAYEHU

FILEBOX

KidSecure

Pros: Set file and program access levels for everyone in the family on a single PC.

Cons: Customizing rooms and privileges is time-consuming.

Verdict: A smart way to protect your files from curious kids.

$30 est. street price
Alpha Software Corp.
(617) 229-2924
Reader Service No. 769

BUSINESS CD-ROM

Adams Streetwise

Many people want to succeed in business without really trying, but it takes lots of hard work and savvy to build a successful enterprise. To make up for what they don't teach you in business school, Adams Streetwise Small Business Start-Up offers practical advice.

The CD-ROM covers a wide range of entrepreneurial topics, such as business strategies, product positioning, marketing on the Internet, obtaining financing, and managing employees. It's Business 101 with a down-in-the-trenches pragmatic approach.

Streetwise presents those topics by means of various media. Business owners speak through talking-head video, for example. Most topics are presented via slide shows and accompanying audio clips. The result is a colorful media mix that's strictly window dressing for the meaty content.

Besides offering guidance, Streetwise contains sample business forms and templates for documents such as marketing plans, financial statements, legal forms, and lists like Adams's Rules (the author's business commandments).

The program has a polished and intuitive interface. While you may be used to seeing the same type of advice in books, it's convenient to obtain it on a CD. If you're trying to find that intangible edge to make your business work, look to Adams Streetwise Small Business Start-Up for some useful advice.

WAYNE KAWAMOTO

FILEBOX

Adams Streetwise Small Business Start-Up

Pros: Offers a wide range of business advice through an easy-to-use interface.

Cons: It's easy to get buried under facts and figures.

Verdict: Sound business advice for the price of lunch.

$40 est. street price
Adams Media Corp.
(617) 767-8100
Reader Service No. 770

Drivers' Ed

CHAPTER 6:

quantity or quality? yes.

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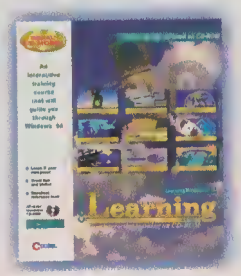
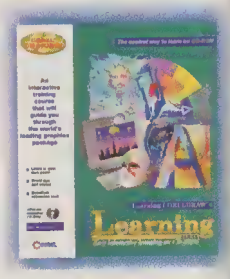


An easy way to learn Windows® 95



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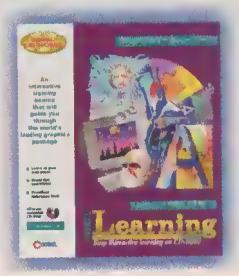

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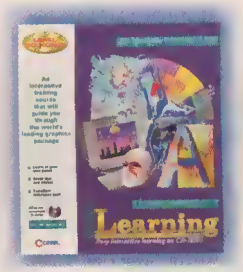

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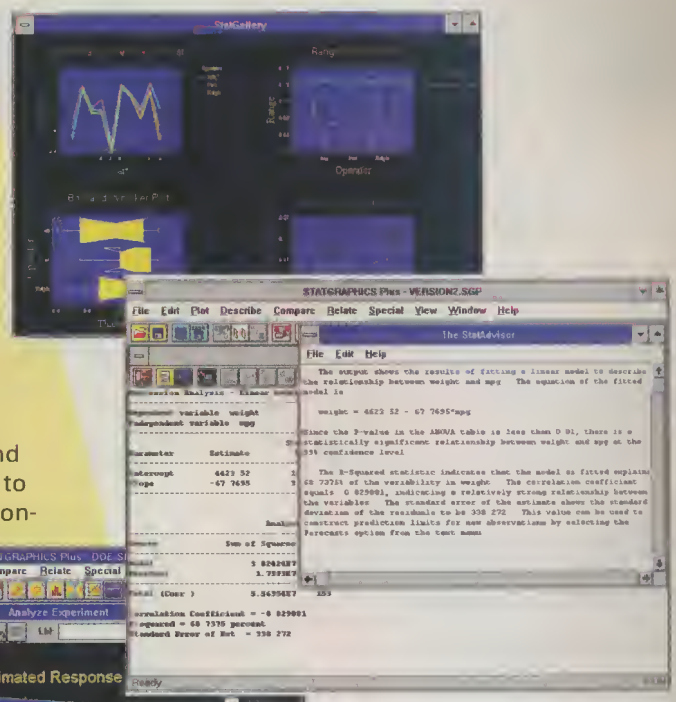

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IMAGING MAGAZINE PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 94

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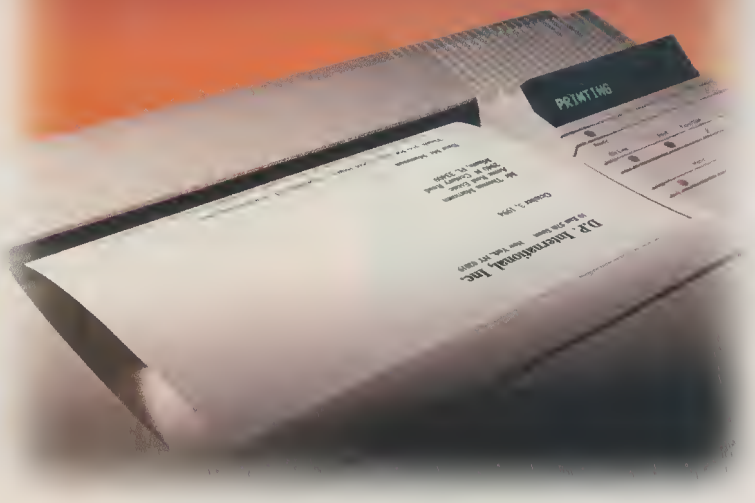

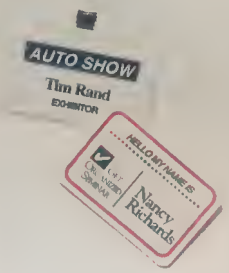

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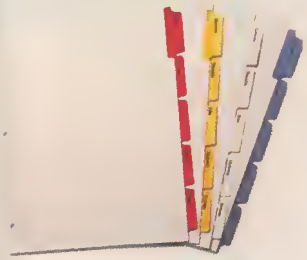

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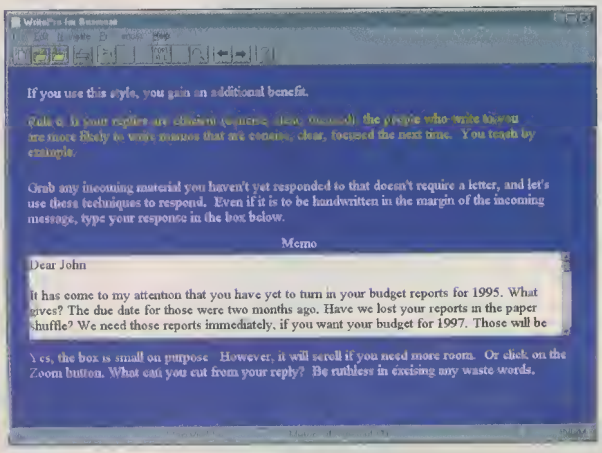


The only strength of WritePro is its broad advice, which is presented on topical slides that you sift through and read. While the advice is sound, you could just as easily read it in print. Still, with this software you can run through the writing suggestions quickly, and type revisions along the way. The program gives you places to write your letters and reports, but you eventually have to cut and paste your text into your own word processor.

If you need a quick solution to stale writing, WritePro for Business can offer some help. But for the same $179, you could take a writing course and reap the benefits of a human critique.

JACK LYON

FILEBOX

WritePro for Business

Pros: Good general advice; easy to work through.

Cons: Expensive; doesn't check spelling or analyze your writing.

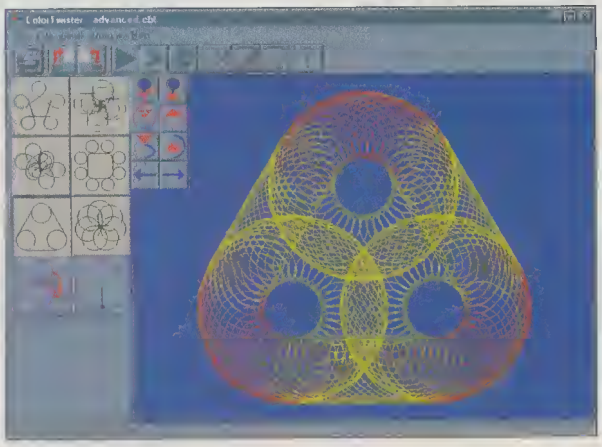
Verdict: A high price for writing-advice software with little advantage over a book.

$179 est. street price
WritePro Corp.
(800) 755-1124, (914) 762-1255
Reader Service No. 771

ENTERTAINMENT

ColorTwister

Remember Spirograph, that fascinating toy that used plastic gears and color pens to create amazing geometric art? It was easily more fun than a Slinky or Silly Putty. The only problem was that it took a while to create your geometric wonders, and whenever the gears slipped, you had to start all over. CycloGraphics' ColorTwister operates on the same premise as Spirograph, except it's all digital. No ink smudges, plastic gears, or ripped paper.



After a few seconds of doodling, you'll remember all your favorite tricks, such as using different gears or colors to create nifty effects. But ColorTwister goes far beyond the original Spirograph by offering several new geometric shapes in its palette of electronic gears. Also, you have complete control over attributes like pen size, color, and the dimensions of the gears.

ColorTwister has four levels of difficulty. The first limits you to the basic drawings you could create with the original paper-based Spirograph. At the higher levels, though, you may need to brush up on your geometry while you spend some time learning which controls do what.

The software is aimed at children of age four and up, but grown-ups will definitely get a kick out of ColorTwister. Start creating designs, and you'll spend hours amusing yourself with this one-trick pony.

JACK LYON

FILEBOX

ColorTwister

Pros: All the fun of Spirograph, without the pen smears and torn paper.

Cons: Some of the controls are quite complicated at the advanced levels.

Verdict: The perfect desktop diversion—no matter what your age.

$20 est. street price
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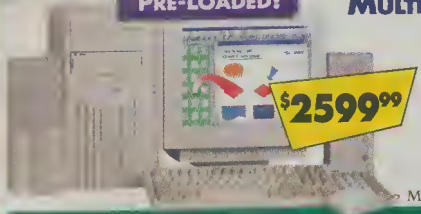

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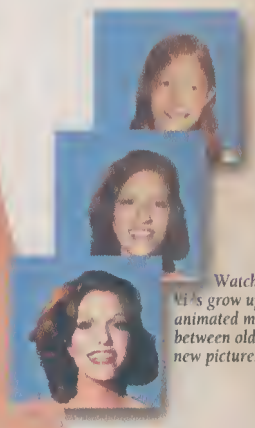

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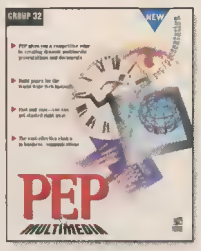

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INTERNET TUTORIAL

Internet Power 6 Pack

The Internet doesn't come with a manual. So how do newbies learn the ropes? Brentwood Home Video hopes you'll get comfortable on your couch and pop its Internet training video into the VCR. Brentwood's Internet Power 6 Pack—a collection of two training tapes, a Web browser, and e-mail software—is designed to give beginners a crash course in everything Internet.

But while Power 6 Pack is billed as "everything you need to understand, install, and use the Internet," this is stretching things a bit. The two 30-minute videos offer a basic introduction to the Internet, and show just a small taste of what's available online. The videos consist of Web-page displays explained by a narrator, and several interviews with a Microsoft Web-site manager.

Presumably, once you've watched the videos you'll want to see for yourself what's on the Net. Brentwood includes a copy of Qualcomm's Eudora for e-mail and Netscape's Navigator for browsing to sites such as Discovery Channel Online. Don't expect to get much help setting up the software, though—there's no documentation, and installation isn't covered in the videos. Another catch: Both programs work only if EarthLink is your Internet service provider.

Net neophytes may find the elementary Internet videos in Internet Power 6 Pack mildly useful. But if you're already Internet-savvy, skip this collection. MICHAEL BANKS

FILEBOX

Internet Power 6 Pack

Pros: Informational videos.

Cons: The browser and e-mail software can be used with only one Internet service provider.

Verdict: Very limited Internet training videos and software.

$25 est. street price
Brentwood Home Video
(818) 879-9090
Reader Service No. 773

ENTERTAINMENT

Smart Games Challenge

When you're on a cross-country flight with your notebook, you need a few good games for entertainment. While playing Doom at 30,000 feet sounds appealing, it just wasn't made for a tiny screen and a tray table. Instead, bring along Smart Games Challenge #1—your row mates will thank you.

Smart Games exercises your brain, not your trigger finger. The software, on CD-ROM or floppy disk (perfect for any portable), contains more than 300 puzzles in 20 categories. There are word challenges like crosswords and cryptograms, visual puzzles, and more. Each game has several levels—when you complete a level, you get points not only for how much of the puzzle you finish but also for how efficiently you solve it.

Compete against yourself or post your total score on the Smart Games Internet Leader Board. Those who score high enough receive cash prizes from Smart Games. (Five $10,000 prizes will be awarded through September 1997.)

The game's graphics and sound effects are cute but limited. Most of the games require a lot of mouse clicking, which can tire your wrists. If you're looking for edge-of-your-seat excitement, Doom is your game. But Smart Games Challenge #1 boasts several fun brainteasers, and it beats an airline magazine any day. JULIE POLITO

FILEBOX

Smart Games Challenge #1

Pros: Low-tech, fun brainteasers for all levels of play.

Cons: Sometimes a little too low-tech.

Verdict: Keep Smart Games in your travel bag for those long flights.

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Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

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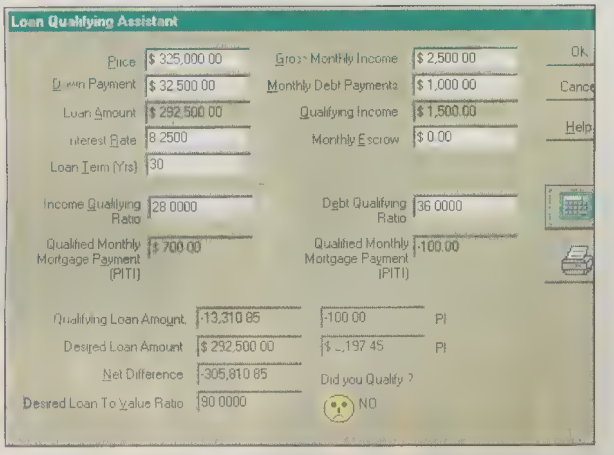
PERSONAL FINANCE

Amortizer96

Got that new sports car on your mind, but don't know if you can afford it? Wondering how many years you need to save for that dream house? Outlook Software's Amortizer96 may have the answers.

Amortizer96 combines several financial-planning tools—from loan calculators to retirement planners—into one handy package. Compare loans with leases, project future savings-account balances, find out how big a mortgage you can afford, then print the information in detailed reports and graphs. Amortizer96 even lets you connect to an online database (for a subscription fee of $7.95 per month) to investigate up-to-the-minute loan rates.



Unfortunately, all these helpful features aren't so easy to use. The slim 30-page manual, terse wizards, and skimpy online help rely on terms that are probably familiar to financial pros but could confuse novices. Outlook Software should take a few lessons from the Planner feature in Intuit's Quicken.

For people who deal with loans, leases, and the like on a day-to-day basis, Amortizer96 may be worth the $129 street price. But everyday users with basic needs should save their pennies and check out some financial-planning shareware or an online loan calculator like the one at www.ibc.wustl.edu/~hugh/. CHRIS LINDQUIST

FILEBOX

Amortizer96

Pros: Lots of financial calculators and planners stuffed into one box.

Cons: The manual and the online help don't do enough to help novices.

Verdict: If it were easier to use, this financial toolkit would be a hit.

$129 est. street price
Outlook Software Corp.
(800) 925-5700, (214) 774-0708
Reader Service No. 775

REFERENCE CD-ROM

Parent's Guide

As if there weren't enough problems for parents to solve, here's another to add to the list: how to find children's software that is educational yet entertaining, challenging yet fun, and—most of all—captivating enough to hold a child's interest. Most parents can only guess whether the software they're purchasing is right for their kids. But now they can turn to the Parent's Guide to Children's Software 96. This CD-ROM eliminates the mystery of purchasing multimedia software for children by giving parents a sneak peek at 50 titles.

Parent's Guide is organized into six categories: Creativity, Learning, Problem Solving, Reading, Adventure, and Reference. Within each group are previews of 6 to 12 CD-ROMs. Parents can review those that might interest their children and choose the best ones.

Parents can check out the animation and even interact with some of the programs. At the end of each demonstration there's a short video of children giving their honest and sometimes entertaining opinions on the software.

Sifting through 50 samples of children's software can be mind-numbing for any adult. However, if you become familiar with a program before investing in it, you have one less problem to worry about. KEDREN DILLARD

FILEBOX

Parent's Guide to Children's Software 96

Pros: Get an early insight into children's software.

Cons: Patience is definitely a virtue when it comes to choosing the right programs.

Verdict: Perfect for the conscientious parent.

$20 est. street price
Newsweek/Mammoth Micro
(800) 634-3002, (202) 334-7772
Reader Service No. 776

"OF THE THREE PROGRAMS TESTED ONLY UNINSTALLER DID NOT OFFER TO REMOVE CRUCIAL WINDOWS FILES."

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Only UnInstaller™ from MicroHelp gives you absolute peace of mind to safely clean-up your hard drive. With its exclusive SmartLinks™ technology, UnInstaller performs an intelligent series of scans on your hard drive until it thoroughly understands the inter-relationships of files and programs. Without this technology, even an experienced user may find it easy to accidentally remove a crucial file.

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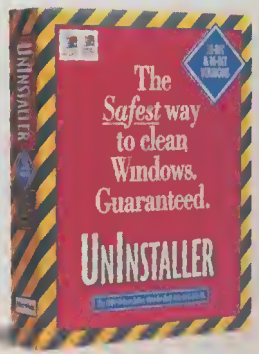
Despite popular belief, Windows 95 applications aren't very thorough at automatically removing themselves from your hard drive. Regardless of which version of Windows you use, you need UnInstaller to continually clean things up. UnInstaller works with both 16-bit and 32-bit applications.

And, as an added safety net, UnInstaller automatically compresses and backs-up everything it removes. So, as you clean off bits and pieces of old files, you can take comfort in being able to put things back exactly as they were with the simple click of a button.

Of course, with other deletion programs you can have the experience of getting rid of things you never meant to get rid of. Which may be good for us, but bad for you.

It's what you don't see on your hard drive that causes problems. Every application puts bits and pieces of itself in places you don't know about. Without UnInstaller, things can slow down — or come to a screeching halt.



Why take your chances with just any old clean-up program? UnInstaller is the No. 1 selling Windows utility on the market with more than a million copies sold.

1-800-922-3383

Available at your local software store.
MicroHelp is at www.microhelp.com

PowerDesk, the highly acclaimed file management and desktop enhancement utility that truly unleashes the hidden power of Windows 95, is also a MicroHelp product.

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Includes FREE Plug & Play software!

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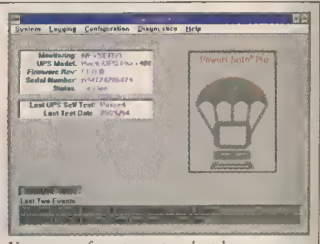

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All in all, you can't make a bad choice when you choose the company that protects more PC's than all other UPS vendors combined: APC.

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For Windows® 95, 3.1 or NT

New Vertisoft Zip-It is fully compatible with Windows 95. You can easily extract or compress files by right-clicking or dragging and dropping them.

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NEW! ***Netscape compatible.*** New Vertisoft Zip-It plug-in for Netscape Navigator™ lets you easily view and manipulate ZIP files on FTP sites.

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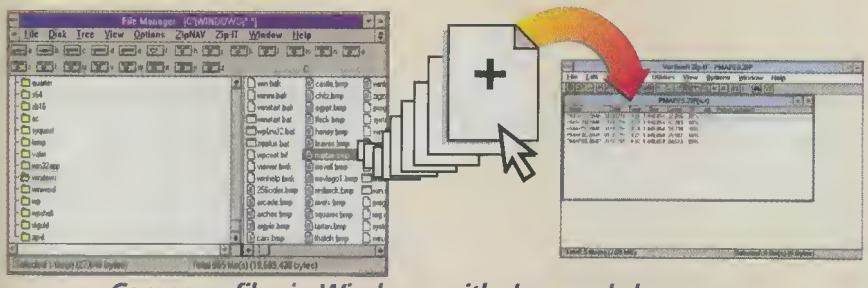

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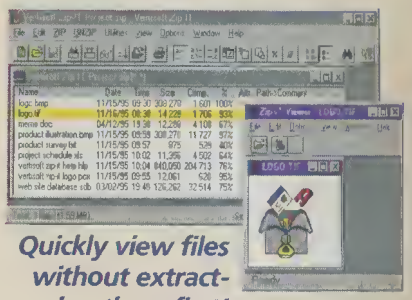

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Then again, yau could install more RAM for the relatively bargain price of just $250. But that's still five times the price of Hurricane (and a degree in computer engineering wouldn't hurt).

So, why bother with costly hardware when 50 bucks gets you Hurricane – the highest-rated utility in its category? (And it's a cinch to install.)

Hurricane replaces virtual memory, (which slows you to a crawl) by hunting down unused memory. Its **RAM Expander™** compresses RAM for improved Windows 95 perfarmance. Its **WinPack™** compresses a program to reclaim its memory at the click of your mouse. And for Windows 3.x **Heap Expander™** provides unlimited resources and cleans up after applications. In fact, Hurricane incorporates an entire arsenal of system-enhancing utilities which install (or de-install) automatically, and are guaranteed to have your system aperating at peak speed. Yes, Hurricane will accelerate your computing even if you have tons of RAM.

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
February 20, 1996
Hurricane 1.02

When it comes ta Hurricane, the experts are unanimous:

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SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: A 386 PC, or greater, Windows 95 or Windows 3.1/3.11 or Windows for Workgroups 3.11, 4Mb RAM or more.

[1]9/26/95 [2]2/20/96 [3]9/95 [4]10/95 [5]12/12/95 [6]11/9

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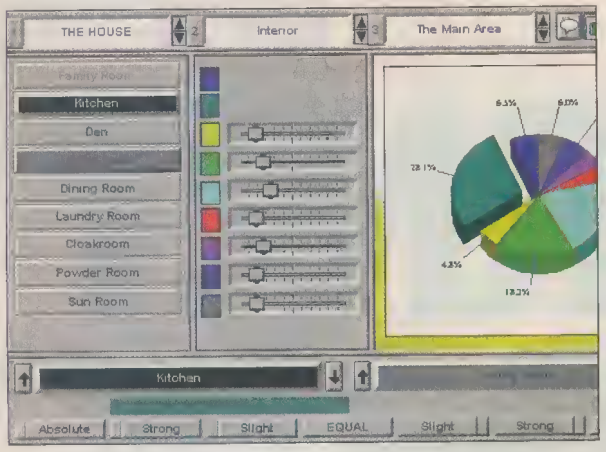
DECISION MANAGEMENT

Which&Why 3.11

Managers make dozens of business decisions each week. And while most of these decisions are accepted as logical and sound, it's inevitable that some must be justified with solid reasoning to a superior. Arlington Software's Which&Why 3.11 can help you make—and back up—a wide range of business decisions.

Getting started with Which&Why is simple. You enter your decision criteria and build a model of all the elements that make up the decision. Models are structured in a familiar, hierarchical format. You can start from scratch or use one of more than 100 ready-to-use models such as Request for Proposal and LAN Selection. However, after you get your criteria out of the way, things get a bit more complicated.



Through myriad windows and dialog boxes, you must rank and prioritize all objective and subjective factors related to your decision. Arlington includes a half-dozen poster-size tutorials, which are great for walking you through the program.

Which&Why is more complex than Avantos Performance Systems' DecideRight (see Windows 95 Buyer's Guide, January, page 204). However, Which&Why is better suited to group decision making and consensus building, and offers more in-depth analysis. If you need help with complicated business decisions, choose Which&Why. **RICH SCHWERIN**

FILEBOX

Which&Why 3.11

Pros: Detailed analysis backs up your business decisions.

Cons: Windows and dialog boxes are complex and daunting at times.

Verdict: Best choice for validating complex corporate decisions.

$149 est. street price
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(800) 496-1303, (514) 954-3665
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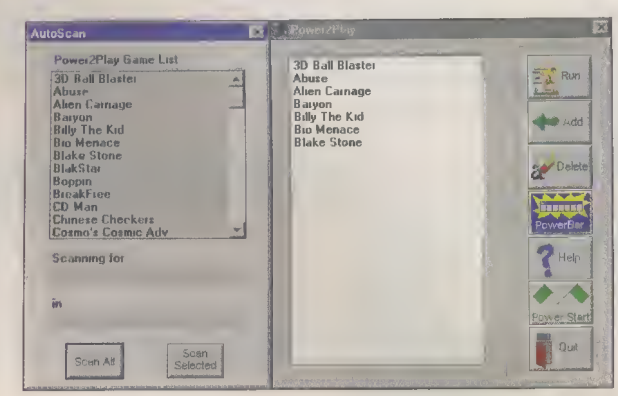
GAME UTILITY

Power2Play

Here's a must-have for PC gamers: a Windows utility that provides one-click access to all those DOS games you still have scattered on your hard drive.

For Windows 3.1 users, Power2Play keeps you out of DOS and away from grizzly CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. Windows 95 users will find an even greater benefit: Power2Play pulled off a minor coup by letting you get through the setup of memory-intensive DOS games quickly and painlessly. Rather than monkeying with your Properties settings, you just answer four yes-or-no questions, sit back, and Power2Play takes care of the rest.



Power2Play's other convenient features include a programmable Power-Bar that lets you launch any application at any time with a single click. AutoScan tries to organize the games on your hard drive for quick and easy access, but is slow and doesn't always do a complete job.

As if painless setup and organization weren't enough, Power2Play comes with a bonus CD loaded with over 70 games including Doom, Terminal Velocity, and Heretic. You also get a copy of NeoCom's Winformant to help you safely delete old programs and keep your system clean. Don't let your passion for action-packed, DOS-based games wreak havoc on your state-of-the-art system. The solution is easy: If you still play DOS games and want your system configuration to be problem-free, get this program. **MARK BAARD**

FILEBOX

Power2Play

Pros: Instant access to DOS games without the operating system getting in the way.

Cons: AutoScan feature is poky and not always thorough.

Verdict: An essential utility for Windows users who frequently play DOS games.

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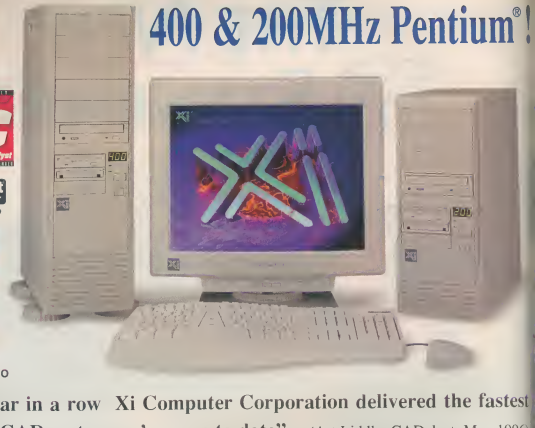

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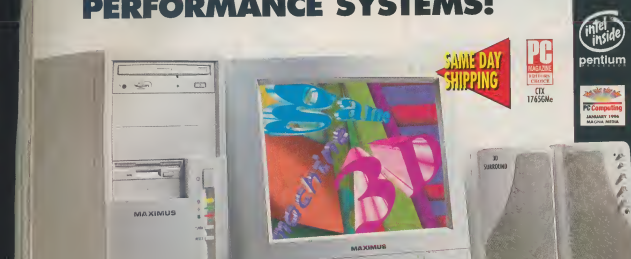

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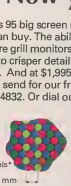

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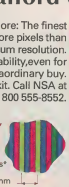

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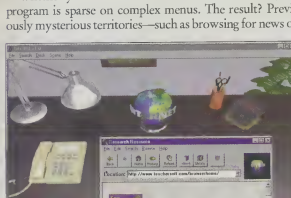

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LEANDER KAHNEY

FILEBOX

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Cons: Doesn't support all the high-end Netscape plug-ins.

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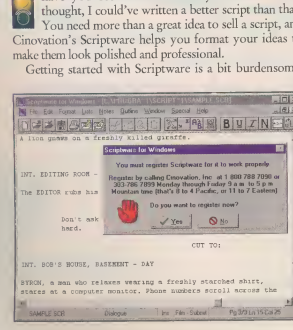

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RICH SCHWERIN

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Cons: A tad pricey at $299; mandatory registration.

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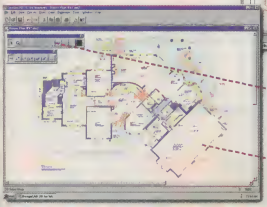

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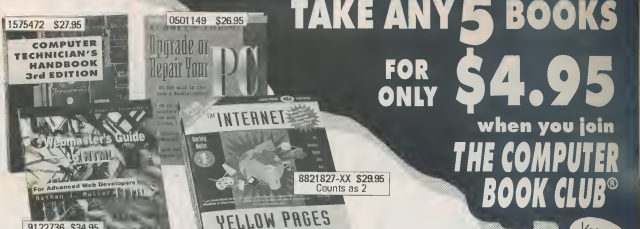

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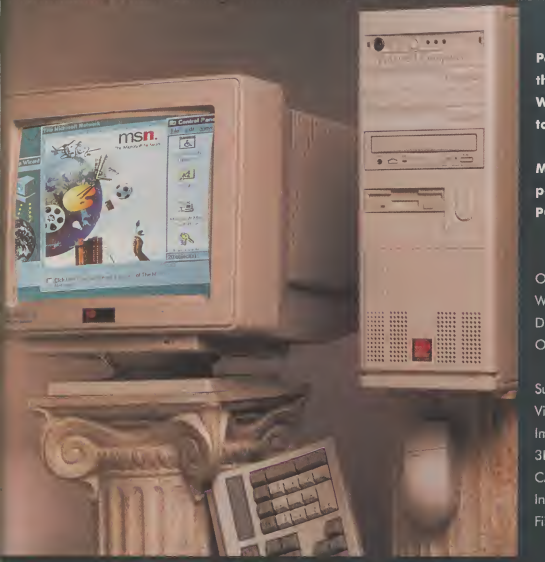

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Supra 288 faxmodem internal	183.34
Supra 288 faxmodem external	204.42
SupraExpress 288 PnP internal	141.33
SupraExpress 288 PnP external	163.46
Supra Simple Internal 288 internal	145.83
Supra Simple Internal 288 external	167.90

U.S. Robotics

SPORTSTER MODEMS

14.4K internal w/fax	96.92
14.4K external w/fax	113.62
14.4K V.34 internal w/fax	189.79
28.8K V.34 external w/fax	188.19
14.4K Voice Sportster w/fax & voice	97.74
9.6 14.4K external w/fax & voice	115.27
Winmodem 28.8	142.75

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V.34 internal w/fax	342.39
V.34 external w/fax	362.50
I-modem ISDN modem internal	562.15
I-modem ISDN modem external	632.84

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28.8 V.34 FaxModem internal	143.48
28.8 V.34 FaxModem external	173.91
14.4 V.32bis Voice Speakerphone internal	114.99
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Back UPS Pro 280 Plug and Play	144.01
Back UPS Pro 420 Plug and Play	233.42
Back UPS Pro 650 Plug and Play	316.03
SmartUPS 700	362.89
SmartUPS 1000	487.89
SmartUPS 1400	612.89
SmartUPS 700	21.89
SurgeArrest Home	29.34
SurgeArrest Network + Phone	45.21
SurgeArrest 8	91.14

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BC PER5 420	126.48
BC PER5 650	169.00
BC PRO 550	213.94
BC PRO 650	313.94
BC PRO 1000	509.20

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SMART 1000 LAN	487.89
SMART 1050 LAN	439.94
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Isobar 8 OUTLET	40.76

PCMCIA CARDS

3Com Ethernet iN PCMCIA	155.76
3Com Ethernis IIC combo	379.88
Adaptec AHA-1460 SCSI	379.88
Hayes ExCard V.34 28.8	182.46
Hayes ExCard 28.8 V.34 w/fax	219.00
Megahertz 10BT Ethernet	139.19
Megahertz 10BT Enet adapter w/AJACK	134.03
Megahertz 28.8 V.34 cellular w/AJACK	269.87
Megahertz 28.8 V.34 cellular w/JACK	269.87
Motorola Mariner 14.4 cellular	269.87
Motorola Mariner 28.8 cellular	269.87
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Motorola Marquis 28.8 data/fax & LAN cellular	461.82
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New Media Wave Jammer sound card	219.11
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Simple 28.8 Communicator	147.19
Simple 28.8 Communicator	147.19
SMC Elite Ethernet combo	199.32
USR Sportster 14.4	97.74
USR Sportster 28.8 V.34 with DataView	275.82
Xircom Ethernet 10BT	182.03
Xircom Ethernet combo	182.03
Xircom Ethernet Modem 14.4 10BT	182.03
Xircom Ethernet-modem combo	182.03
Xircom Ethernet-modem 28.8 10BT/10Base2	451.33
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4221	1.0GB	SCSI-2 FW	$319.694
4221	1.0GB	SCSI-2 DIFF	$319.694
4221	1.0GB	SCSI-2 FW DIFF	$339.694
4112	2.1GB	SCSI-2	$599.694
4112	2.1GB	SCSI-2 FW	$619.694
4112	2.1GB	SCSI-2 DIFF	$619.694
4112	2.1GB	SCSI-2 FW DIFF	$639.694

Quantum

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FIREBALL	1.0GB	SCSI-2 FW	$219.694

CAPELLA SCSI/2-5 YEAR WAR — INT CKT

CAPELLA	1.0GB	SCSI-2	$199.694
CAPELLA	1.0GB	SCSI-2 FW	$219.694

TRAILBLAZER SCSI/2-5 YEAR WAR — INT CKT

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TRAILBLAZER	1.0GB	SCSI-2 FW	$219.694

ATLAS SCSI/2-5 YEAR WAR — INT CKT

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ATLAS	2.1GB	SCSI-2 FW	$419.694

GRAND PRIX SCSI/2-5 YEAR WAR — INT CKT

GRAND PRIX	2.1GB	SCSI-2	$399.694
GRAND PRIX	2.1GB	SCSI-2 FW	$419.694

CATALINA SERIES-4 5 YEAR WAR — INT CKT

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FUJITSU

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M2694	2.1GB	SCSI-2	$599.694
M2694	2.1GB	SCSI-2 FW	$619.694

Maxtor

FACTORY NEW/3 YEAR WARRANTY — INT CKT

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MXT-1240	1.2GB	SCSI-2 FW	$269.694

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TOSHIBA

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MK1003MAV	1.0GB	2.5" IDE	$299.694
MK1924FAV	1.9GB	2.5" IDE	$399.694
MK1926FAV	1.9GB	2.5" IDE	$399.694

IBM

DHEA-36480	4.8GB	2.5" IDE	$599.694

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ST9655A	1.0GB	5400	$299.694
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TEAC/NEC

FD-235HF	1.44MB	3.5"	$35.42
FD-235HF	1.44MB	3.5" BLACK	$40.42

MITSUMI

D353F2	1.44MB	3.5"	$29.694
D353F2	1.44MB	3.5" BLACK	$34.694

SCSI & CPU CASES

3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI	$70
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/300W PS	$90
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/350W PS	$100
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/400W PS	$110
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/450W PS	$120
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/500W PS	$130
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/600W PS	$140
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/700W PS	$150
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/800W PS	$160
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/900W PS	$170
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/1000W PS	$180
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/1200W PS	$190
3101-B	MINI TOWER	SCSI W/1400W PS

The Vision

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Austin's Global Reach: The World According to IPC

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Austin projects eye-catching confidence with a comprehensive product line that includes **high-capacity notebooks, reliable desktop systems**, and **expandable departmental servers**. We invite closer scrutiny, because all Austin systems are configured for performance and priced for value. And each machine is backed by superior service and support. **Make contact with Austin.**

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Quality is our watchword, and our mission is absolute customer satisfaction. We're certain that our personal attention and higher level of craftsmanship will make the difference for you. Austin is proven in the PC industry — we've won the **5-Star Service Award** from *PC Computing* and the **Industry Information Technology Award** from *Government Computer News*. Call now and put Austin's commitment to work for you. ***Seeing is Believing.***

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- *Austin Edge™ Series Notebook Systems: Includes Intel's 430MX™ PCI Set and support for internal CD-ROM*
- *Austin PowerPLUS™ Desktop Systems: Our profile for success features Pentium® and Pentium Pro technology and custom configuration options*
- *Austin Affinity™ Departmental Servers: Quad Pentium Pro processors with 12 hot-swap drive bays and enhanced cooling for greater reliability*

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Notebook Solutions

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Austin Edge CD Notebook Standard Features:

Intel 430MX PCI Set

Internal 3.5" Removable Diskette Drive, (Swappable w/ 2nd Battery or 6X CD-ROM)

32-Bit Local Bus Fast IDE

256K Pipeline Burst L2 Cache

16-Bit Stereo Business Audio

Built-in Microphone, Speakers & External Jacks for Line-In/Line-Out

Lithium-Ion Battery

Glide Point® Mouse

Weight with Battery: 6.8 lbs.

Win '95 Plug n' Play BIOS

Windows® 95 Pre-Installed

Austin Edge CD-133

133MHz Intel Pentium Processor

11.3" TFT 800 x 600 Color Display

16MB EDO RAM (expandable to 40MB)

1.35GB Hard Drive

32-Bit PCI Video – 2MB

6X Internal CD-ROM

28.8 Fax/Modem

*Business Lease: **$138 / month***

$3,999

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Instinct for Action

Cut your response time and react with confidence, knowing that Austin's enhanced ***Edge*** **notebook computers** back you up with **133MHz Pentium** power and **16MB of RAM**. Display a crisp, **11.3" screen image** and rely on the **6X CD-ROM** to deliver top multimedia performance. **Lithium-Ion batteries** ensure extended battery life, and the **810MB hard drive** capacity manages your data effectively.

Austin Edge XP-100

100MHz Intel Pentium Processor

10.4" TFT 800 x 600 Color Display

16MB EDO RAM (expandable to 24MB)

810MB Hard Drive (Fast IDE Interface)

32-Bit PCI Video – 1MB

Internal 3.5" Diskette Drive (Removable for optional second battery)

*Business Lease: **$92 / month***

$2,469

Austin Edge XP Notebook Standard Features:

Intel 430MX PCI Set

16-Bit Stereo Business Audio

Built-in Microphone, Speakers & External Jacks for Line-In/Line-Out

NiMH Battery (Second Battery Optional)

Integrated Pointing Stick Mouse

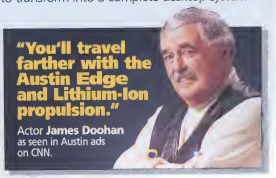
Weight with Battery: 5.5 lbs.

Win '95 Plug n' Play BIOS

Windows 95 Pre-Installed

Jump on the Opportunity

For even greater flexibility, ask about the ***Edge*** **Duet**. It weighs just 4.7 pounds and slides into a docking station (only 6.8 pounds total) to transform into a complete desktop system.



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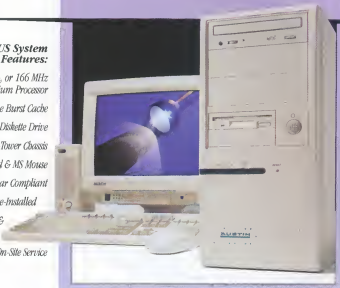
intel inside
pentium PROCESSOR

Desktop Solutions

20/20 V

AUSTIN POWER PERFORMERS



Austin PowerPLUS System Standard Features:

100-, 120-, 133-, 150-, or 166 MHz Intel Pentium Processor

256 to 512K L2 Pipeline Burst Cache

3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive

Desktop or Mini-Tower Chassis

Win '95 Keyboard & MS Mouse

Energy-Star Compliant

Windows '95 Pre-Installed

Three-Year Parts & Labor Warranty

One-Year On-Site Service

Austin PowerPLUS 100

100MHz Intel Pentium Processor

16MB EDO RAM (expandable to 128MB)

1.2GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive

64-Bit PCI Video Accelerator – 2MB DRAM

6X IDE CD-ROM Drive, 16-Bit Audio, 40W Stereo Speakers

15" .28mm NI SVGA Monitor

101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse

Business Lease: ***$69 / month***

$1,899

Upgrade to PowerPLUS 133 - ***add $150***

See the Difference

Call Austin and experience our attention to detail and fast response. Expect **Custom Configuration** and **Quick-Ship** promptness without extra charges. With Austin, we build reliable computers and we stand behind every system we ship.

A Vision of Your Success

Each Austin desktop gives you a selection of innovative features, like the **180MHz Pentium Pro processor** and **64-bit PCI acceleration** with **2MB of VRAM**, as well as an **8X CD-ROM** and **16-bit Audio Card**. Of course, Windows 95 is preinstalled, and optional hard-drive capacity ranges up to 2GB.

Austin Pro Workstation Standard Features:

180- or 200 MHz Intel Pentium Pro Processor

256 to 512K L2 Pipeline Burst Cache

3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive

Mid-Tower ATX Chassis

Win '95 Keyboard & MS Mouse

Energy-Star Compliant

Windows '95 Pre-Installed

Three-Year Parts & Labor Warranty

One-Year On-Site Service

Austin Pro Workstation 180

180MHz Intel Pentium Pro Processor

16MB EDO RAM (expandable to 128MB)

2GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive

64-Bit PCI Video Accelerator – 2MB VRAM

8X IDE CD-ROM Drive, 16-Bit Audio, 40W Stereo Speakers

15" .28mm NI SVGA Monitor

Business Lease: ***$103 / month***

$2,799

Upgrade to Pentium Pro 200 - ***add $200***

Upgrade to Windows NT 3.51 Workstation - ***add $275***

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intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

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Business Lease term reflects 36-month ...

Server Solutions

VISION

AUSTIN DEPARTMENTAL SERVERS

Austin Affinity XR Server Standard Features:

256K L2 Cache
Adaptec 2940W Drive Controller
4X SCSI CD-ROM Drive
16-Bit PCI Video
3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive
10Base-T PCI Network Adapter
3 ISA, 3 PCI Expansion Slots
Tower Chassis (26"H x 10" W x 25.5"D)
300W Power Supply
101-Key Keyboard
Three-Year Parts & Labor Warranty
One-Year On-Site Service

Austin Affinity XE and XE Pro Standard Features:

512K L2 Cache
Mylex or AMI PCI RAID Controller
4X SCSI CD-ROM Drive
3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive
16-Bit PCI Video
100Base-T PCI Network Adapter
Affinity XE: 6 EISA, 4 PCI Expansion Slots
Affinity XE Pro: 4 EISA, 6 PCI Expansion Slots
Tower Chassis (26"H x 10" W x 25.5"D)
500W Power Supply
101-Key Keyboard
Three-Year Parts & Labor Warranty
One-Year On-Site Service
Mylex or AMI Array Management Software and Austin's Novell NetWare Management Software Pre-Installed

Look to the Future

Your **Austin Affinity** arrives ready for work, designed for easy installation and **mission critical reliability**. Whether you start with a single processor or take advantage of the **first-to-market quad Pentium Pro configuration**, every Affinity is designed to accommodate increasing demands. The top-of-the-line **Affinity XE Pro** offers four EISA and six PCI expansion slots for maximum expandability to manage your network growth.

Site Plan for Success

Austin Affinity. It means a compelling combination of raw processing power and easy-to-manage networking resources. Install up to **12 hot-swappable hard drives**, each with 2GB or 4GB capacity. And simplify network administration with preinstalled Austin **Novell NetWare Management software** and **Array Management software.**

intel inside
PENTIUM.PRO
PROCESSOR

Austin Affinity XR-120

120MHz Intel Pentium Processor
16MB RAM – Expandable to 256MB
2GB Hot-Swappable Fast & Wide SCA Hard Drive – Expandable to 12GB
Business Lease: ***$138 / month***

$3,995

Austin Affinity XE-150

150MHz Dual Pentium Processor
64MB RAM – Expandable to 512MB
3 2GB Hot-Swappable Fast & Wide SCA Hard Drives – Expandable to 24GB
Business Lease: ***$364 / month***

$10,995

Austin Affinity XE-Pro

200MHz Dual Pentium Pro Processor
128MB RAM – Expandable to 1GB
5-2GB Hot-Swappable Fast & Wide SCA Hard Drives – Expandable to 24GB
Business Lease: ***$665 / month***

$19,995

Maximize Affinity XE reliability with hot-swap redundant power supply upgrade – ***$995***

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Satellite Pro 410

Satellite Pro 410

- Built-in 4X CD-ROM Drive(Active model only)
- Built-in 16-bit sound, microphone, speaker & MIDI
- EDO RAM memory, expandable to 40MB
- Built-in AC adapter - small, sleek design & reduced weight
- Integrated Accupoint - small, accurate & easy to use
- Lithium Ion battery technology
- Built-in infrared for wireless communications

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 90	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8/772MB	$3199
Pentium 90	11.3" Active SVGA	8/772MB	4399*

* Features built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

Satellite 100CS

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.4" Dual Scan	8/500MB	$1969*

* Features EDO RAM memory

Portégé 610CT

- Pentium 90Mhz processor
- 9.5" True Color display for optimum color
- Built-in 16-bit SoundBlaster Pro compatible sound , microphone & speaker
- Lithium Ion battery technology
- Integrated Accupoint for easy control

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 90	9.5" True Color	8/720MB	$3139

90Mhz Pentium

WIN95 INSTALLED

Portege 610CT

Tecra 720

6X Speed!

BIG! 11.3" or 12.1" Display

Tecra 700 and 720

- Pentium 120MHz & 133MHz processors
- PCI bus architecture (internal & external)
- 11.3", 800x600 high res. display (Tecra 700)
- 12.1", 1024x768 high res. display (Tecra 720)
- Built-in 28.8 fax/modem with speaker phone (Tecra 720 model only)
- Built-in 6X CD-ROM Drive (Tecra 720)
- Optional 4X CD-ROM Drive (Tecra 700)

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 120	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8MB/1.3GB	$3999
Pentium 120	11.3" Active SVGA	16MB/1.3GB	4999
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.2GB	6299*

* Features built-in 6X CD-ROM drive

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ThinkPad® 760EL and 760ELD

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	11.3" Dual Scan	8/810MB	$3399
Pentium 100	12.1" Active SVGA	8/810MB	4699*
Pentium 120	11.3" Dual Scan	8/810MB	3599
Pentium 120	12.1" Active SVGA	8MB/1.08GB	4799
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.08GB	5499

* Includes built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

ThinkPad® 760ED and 760ED

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 120	12.1" Active SVGA	8/810MB	$4999
Pentium 120	12.1" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	5199
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.08GB	5999
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.2GB	6999*

* Includes built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

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Additional ThinkPad 760 models available. Call for details.

ThinkPad® 760L and 760LD

- 10.4" Active display
- 32-bit accelerated Local bus video
- Built-in sound card, speakers & microphone
- 256KB Level 2 cache
- Tilting keyboard with palm rest

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 90	10.4" Active	8/810MB	$4249
Pentium 90	10.4" Active	8/810MB	4549*

* Includes built-in 4X CD-ROM drive
Windows 95 models also available.

ThinkPad® 760LD

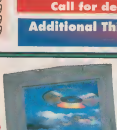
NEC

NEC Versa 2205

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	9.5" Active	8/810MB	$2499

NEC Versa 550D

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
5x86/100	10.4" Dual Scan	8/540MB	$1699



Intel Inside Pentium CLASS

4X Speed

NEC Versa 4000

- Built-in 4X CD-ROM Drive! (selected models)
- Up to 120MHz Pentium processors
- 256KB Level 2 cache to optimize performance
- Unbelievable display – 65K color Dual Scan, 16.8 million color Active (High resolution 800x600 Active Matrix displays available)
- Built-in 16-bit sound, microphone, MIDI and 2 built-in speakers
- Multimedia docking station with outstanding Altec Lansing 4 speaker array (optional accessory, priced separately)

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.1" Active	8/810MB	$3799*
Pentium 90	10.4" High Res.	8/810MB	4099
Pentium 90	10.1" Active	8/810MB	4349*
Pentium 120	10.4" High Res.	8MB/1GB	4399

* Features built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

WIN95 INSTALLED

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Digital HiNote VP

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	10.4" Dual Scan	8/810MB	$2399
Pentium 100	10.4" Active	8/810MB	2869*

*Includes 16-bit stereo sound, mic. & speaker

Digital HiNote Ultra II

- Up to 133MHz mobile Pentium processor
- 256KB of internal Level 2 cache
- Oversized 10.4" Active Matrix display
- 16mm trackball with sculpted palm rest

as low as $2999 FR-P84WE-AA

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	10.4" Active SVGA	8MB/810MB	$2999
Pentium 100	10.4" Active SVGA	8MB/1.08GB	3769
Pentium 120	10.4" Active SVGA	8MB/1.08GB	4059
Pentium 133	10.4" Active SVGA	8MB/1.35GB	4439

HiNote Ultra II. Shown with external floppy dock

Shown Actual Size (in closed position) 1.1" 3.9 lbs.

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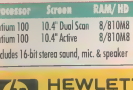


HP OmniBook 600 NoteBook PC

HP OmniBook 600

- Weighs **ONLY 3.8 pounds!**
- Built-in 16-bit sound, microphone & speaker
- Built-in infrared for wireless communications
- Lithium Ion battery technology
- Instant "ON" ready-to-work state – lasts for months on a charge

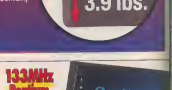
Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
486DX4/75	9.5" Active	8/340MB	$2499

HP OmniBook 5500

- 133MHz Pentium with 32-bit PCI Local bus
- 12.1" Active Matrix display with 65,000 colors
- Super VGA-800x600 resolution on notebook
- PCI Local bus Video, 1.5MB video memory
- 16-bit stereo sound with 2 speakers
- Optional 8X CD-ROM available

133MHz Pentium with PCI BUS

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.35GB	$5999



HP OmniBook 5500 NoteBook PC

Additional HP OmniBook models available! Call for details.

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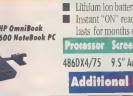

Ascentia P

AST Ascentia P

- Pentium 100MHz and 133MHz processors
- Standard SmartBay – swap 4X CD-ROM, 3.5" floppy or optional 2nd battery
- 11.3" Dual Scan & Active display with 800x600 resolution
- 800MB & 1.2GB removable hard drives
- Built-in SoundBlaster 16 Vibra chipset

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 100	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8/800MB	$3299
Pentium 100	11.3" Dual Scan SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	3779
Pentium 133	11.3" Active SVGA	8/800MB	4249
Pentium 133	11.3" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	4729

AST Ascentia J

- Integrated 14.4/14.4 Data/fax modem and audio
- PCI bus architecture with 256KB Level 2 cache
- 10.4" SVGA (800x600) resolution Dual Scan and Active display

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.4" Dual Scan SVGA	8/500MB	$2149
Pentium 100	10.4" Dual Scan SVGA	8/800MB	2639
Pentium 100	10.4" Active Matrix SVGA	8/800MB	2839
Pentium 133	10.4" Active Matrix SVGA	8/800MB	3299

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COMPAQ

Contura 430

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
486DX4/100	10.4" Dual Scan	8/720MB	$2369
486DX4/100	10.4" Active	8/720MB	2869

LTE 5000 Series

- Up to 133MHz Pentium power with 256Kb cache
- 32-bit PCI Local bus graphics
- 8MB or 16MB RAM exp. up to 72MB or 80MB (differs by model)
- Built-in 16-bit sound, microphone & 2 speakers
- MultiBay – holds CD-ROM, 2nd HDD, floppy or 2nd battery
- Up to 1.35GB hard drives
- Built-in infrared for wireless communications
- Supports NiMH batteries
- Optional MPEG and TV video adapter

WIN95 INSTALLED

New Models!

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.4" Dual Scan	8/510MB	$2830
Pentium 75	11.3" Dual Scan	8/810MB	3210
Pentium 75	10.4" Active	8/810MB	3590
Pentium 90	10.4" Active	8/810MB	3970
Pentium 90	10.4" Active	8/810MB	4340*
Pentium 120	10.4" Active	8MB/1.35GB	4720
Pentium 120	11.3" Active SVGA	16MB/1.35GB	5099
Pentium 133	12.1" Active SVGA	16MB/1.35GB	5669

*Features Built-in 4X CD-ROM drive

on LTE 5300, optional MPEG II or non-upgradable on other LTE 5000 models.

LTE 5000

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Extensa 560/570CD & CDT

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 75	10.4" Dual Scan	8/810MB	$2449
Pentium 75	10.4" Active	8MB/1.2GB	3419
Pentium 100	11.3" Dual Scan	8/810MB	2929
Pentium 100	10.4" Active	8MB/1.2GB	3909

TravelMate 5130/5270/5300

- Pentium 90, 120 & 133MHz processors
- 10.4" & 11.3" SVGA, Active Matrix display
- Dual Lithium Ion batteries
- 32-bit PCI Local bus graphics
- 2MB video memory
- 256KB Level 2 cache
- 1280x1024 external monitor resolution
- 16-bit SoundBlaster compatible audio
- External PCI bus
- Windows 95 **AND** Windows for Workgroups

UP TO 133MHz PENTIUM

Processor	Screen	RAM/HD	Price
Pentium 90	10.4" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	$3419
Pentium 120	11.3" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	4099
Pentium 133	11.3" Active SVGA	8MB/1.2GB	4499

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- 6X CD-ROM Drive
- 6X CD-ROM Drive w/5disc CD changer (selected models)
- Advanced Telephony – 28.8 data/fax/modem, telephone answering system and speaker phone (differs by model, call for details)
- Integrated 3-D surround sound (selected models)
- 64-Bit PCI Local bus graphics
- AST Works II navigation software – featuring "SPOT"
- Enhanced IDE interface-fast disk performance

Processor	RAM/HD	CD-ROM	Price
Pentium 100	16MB/1.2GB	6X	$1599
Pentium 133	16MB/1.2GB	6X	1939
Pentium 150	16MB/1.6GB	6X	2199
Pentium 100	16MB/2.6GB	6X	1699
Pentium 133	16MB/1.6GB	6X	2099
Pentium 150	16MB/2.1GB	6X†	2639
Pentium 166	16MB/2.1GB	6X†	2799

† w/5disc CD changer
Monitors priced separately

WIN95 INSTALLED

Monitors priced separately

AST Advantage Adventure

NEC

All Models Optimized for WIN 95

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Monitors priced separately

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Ready Multimedia For Windows 95

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- Built-in MPEG support for full screen, full motion video
- 32-bit PCI controller for fast disk performance
- LOADS of **FREE** software

*8X CD-ROM on 7610

Processor	RAM/HD	CD-ROM	Price
Pentium 120	8MB/1.2GB	4X	$1799
Pentium 133	8MB/1.2GB	6X	2199
Pentium 150	8MB/1.2GB	6X	1999
Pentium 120	16MB/1.6GB	6X	2499
Pentium 133	16MB/1.6GB	6X	2299
Pentium 150	16MB/2GB	6X	2799
Pentium 166	16MB/2GB	6X	2999

Monitors priced separately

HEWLETT® PACKARD

SAVE 5% HP DeskJet 340 Printer Bundle C2664A
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2. Color kit
3. Rechargeable battery
$309.99

SAVE 35% DeskJet 320 printer Bundle C2637AABA
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2. 2-year wheel feeder
3. Color Kit
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HP LaserJet 5P printer (8ppm, 600dpi) C3941A	$ 679.00
HP LaserJet 5P printer (8ppm, 600dpi) C3150A	879.99

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HP DeskJet 660C printer C2164A	299.00†
HP DeskJet 660Cse printer C4548A	309.00†‡
HP DeskJet 682C C6574AABA	329.00†

HP DeskJet 820Cse printer C4568AABA	399.00†
HP DeskJet 855C printer C4551A	449.00†
HP DeskJet 855Cse C4557AABA	499.00†
HP DeskJet 1600C printer C3404A	1349.99†

† Includes Ready-Set-Print Package
‡ Includes HP Color Kit

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HP OfficeJet LX C2891A	$599.99
HP JetFAX 710 C3130A	569.99

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HP DeskJet 660Cse

C3941A
HP LaserJet 5L

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Hewlett-Packard Scanners

HP ScanJet 4C scanner C2572B	$ 949.99
HP ScanJet 4S portable scanner C1127A	319.00

HP Tape Drives

HP T1000 (internal) C4326RB	$ 169.00
HP T1000e (portable) C4326RB	219.99
HP SureStore, 2GB, DAT, int C5125E	899.99
HP SureStore, 8GB, DAT, Ext C1529F	1220.00

Hard Drives

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IOMEGA, Zip Drive, SCSI (10011) ..... $ 199.95
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4.3GB, SCSI-2, External (ST124200NE) 899.00
9.1GB, SCSI-2 (ST15290N) 1070.00

Quantum
540MB, EZ135, Internal (ST82003-001) ..... $ 199.00
1.0GB, EZ135, SCSI, External (ST82136-001) 230.00

Western Digital
2.1GB, E-IDE (AC31200) ..... $ 320.00

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HiCap Tape, 2.4GB, Internal (PT-2120) 1109.99
HiCap Tape, 4GB, Internal (PT-5003) 1139.99

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5G/10GB, DLT, External (SWLTL-BL) 6890.00

Hewlett-Packard
T1000, 800MB (Travan), Internal (C4320RB) ..... $ 169.00
T1000e, 800MB (Travan), Portable (C4326RB) 219.99
SureStore, DAT, Internal (C1529F) 899.99
SureStore, DAT, Internal (C1529F) 1029.99
SureStore 6000, DAT, Internal (C1528F) 1100.00
SureStore 6000, DAT, External (C1529F) 1220.00

Iomega
Ditto Drive, Internal, 800MB (10103) 139.95

Microsolutions
BackPack 800T, (Travan), Portable (143010) ..... $ 169.99

Monitors

NEC 17" 1280x1024ni .28mm # JC-1734VMA-1 $829.99

NEC

1024x768ni .28mm JC-14W1VMA	$ 329.00
1280x1024ni .28mm JC-15W1VMA	429.00
15", 1280x1024ni .28mm JC-1571VMA	499.00
17", 1280x1024ni .28mm JC-1734VMA-1	829.00

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17", 1280x1024ni .28mm (JC-1734VMA-1)	829.00

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Trinitron, 15", 1280x1024ni .25mm (CPD-155X1)	449.00
Trinitron, 15", 1280x1024ni .25mm (CPD-155F2)	499.00
Trinitron, 17", 1280x1024ni .25mm (CPD-175F2)	899.00
Trinitron, 20", 1600x1200ni .30mm (CPD-205F2)	1899.99

Software

Microsoft

Office for Win 95	071-05470	$ 439.99
Office Pro for Win 95	269-05470	534.99
Office Pro Win 95 & Rocket# 98 (CD)	269/7595700	544.99
Word for Win 95	009-05470	269.99
Access, for Windows 95 V7.0	077-05470	299.99
Access Development Kit for Win 95 CD-ROM	077-7595700	479.99
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Microsoft Excel for Windows # 065-05470 $289.99

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Visual C++ 1.0 Windows NT 548-05700 (CD) 499.95
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Laplink V6.0 for Windows 95 [illegible] $ 79.95

Symantec

pcANYWHERE 2.0 Windows [illegible] $ 99.95
pcANYWHERE 5.0 DOS 47-000-0 (CD) 79.95
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PS/2 90 XP, 95 XP P75 (parts) 56, 57 (all models)

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Expansion boards for P80 (P80Bit based models

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16MB	172712-001	$269	32MB

Deskpro 6000 5/66, 6000 5/100, 6000 5/133, 6000 5/166, 6000 5/200

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Pentium 60/66MHz	120/133MHz Pentium	$852
Pentium 75MHz	133MHz Pentium	$877
Pentium 90MHz	150MHz Pentium	$927
Pentium 100MHz	166MHz Pentium	$952

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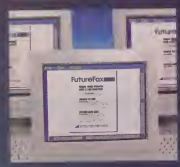

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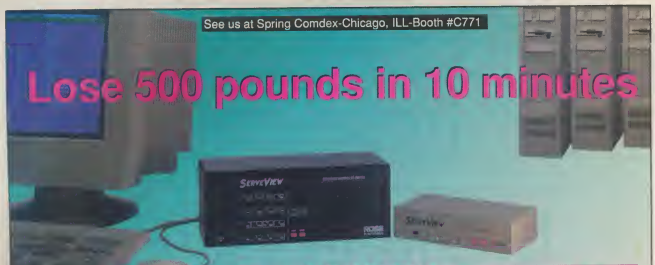

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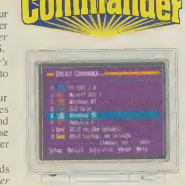

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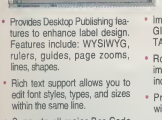

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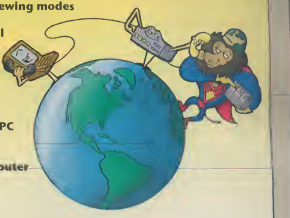

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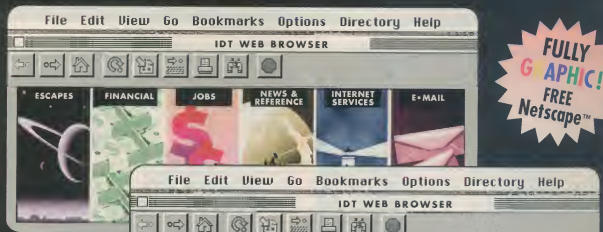

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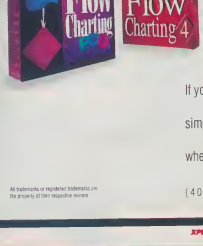

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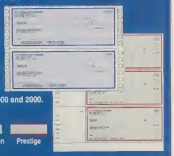

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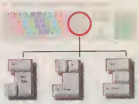

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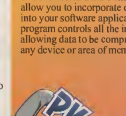

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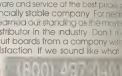

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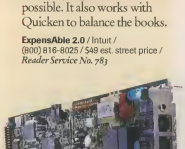
Intuit's ExpensAble 2.0 uses every usability trick in the book to make expense reporting as painless as possible. It also works with Quicken to balance the books.

ExpensAble 2.0 / Intuit / (800) 816-8025 / $49 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 783*



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With Shark Multimedia's Tiger 288R DSVD modem (above) you can hold conference calls, send faxes, or play networked games and talk to your opponents at the same time.

Tiger 288R / Shark Multimedia / (800) 800-3321 / $289 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 784*

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Computer Friends' Aristotle is a database that records voice comments. It holds 350 hours of vocal information on 500MB. You can record a voice comment, type in a brief description of it, and search by keyword to retrieve the entry.

Aristotle / Computer Friends / (503) 626-2291 / $299 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 785*

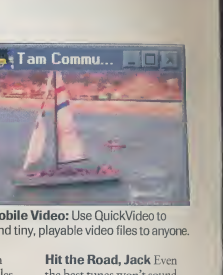
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN UNDERWOOD

Portable Power

Multimedia To Go

Who says you can't take it with you? Four new multimedia products now let you take your show on the road. . . . **We Be Jammin'** New Media's Gamejammer Type II PC Card is the Swiss Army knife of portable sound. It's a fully functional sound card with a built-in speaker, and a MIDI card with I/O abilities. And it has microphone and line inputs. And did we mention the joystick port? Whether you're making fancy multimedia presentations, mixing sounds on the fly, or brushing up on the next level of ActiVision's MechWarrior, this card does it all ($199 est. street price; 800-453-0550). . . .

Presentation Power Does your notebook have a Zoom Video port? If so, pop in Smart Modular Technologies' MPEG ZV Card (below) and strap on your seat belt. It uses Sigma Design's RealMagic technology with full Open MPEG-1 (OM-1) and Windows 95, and you get full-screen, 30-fps color video and digital audio from a Type II PC Card. Just imagine that kind of multimedia power in a presentation (price to be announced; 800-536-1231). . . .



Mobile Video: Use QuickVideo to send tiny, playable video files to anyone.

Video To Go If you don't need full-screen video, but find that AVI files are too big to store on your portable or download from a Web page, check out Alaris's QuickVideo (above). Its software compresses AVI files to half their size. A 1-minute, 160-by-120-pixel video takes up little more than 1MB. The package includes a card that lets you create "Videogram" files from your VCR, camcorder, or TV, and software that converts existing AVI files into the QuickVideo format ($399 list price; 800-317-2349). . . .

Hit the Road, Jack Even the best tunes won't sound like much without the right speakers. Panasonic's new $99 EABMPC250 features two 10-watt, 2-way speakers and a 10-watt subwoofer with enough power to get your point across in a small conference room. The speakers are so compact that you can carry them under your arm (800-742-8086). WOODY LEONHARD

Reader Service Numbers: Gamejammer, 786; MPEG ZV Card, 787; QuickVideo, 788; EABMPC250, 789

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Cordless 100 / Hello Direct / (800) 444-3556 / $350 list price / *Reader Service No. 790*

Record Your Own CDs

Imagine leaving your client a copy of the multimedia-packed presentation you just delivered. Or taking home with you, in your coat pocket, all the files from your office PC. Better yet, what about creating your own custom audio CDs for the commute to the office? Now you can, with CD-recordable (CD-R) drives, which have plunged in price and are easier to use than ever.

We looked at five CD-R drives. All but one record CD-ROMs at the speeds of a typical double-speed drive, and read CDs at quad speed—fast enough for basic CD applications. The drives cost between $800 and $1,500 (prices are expected to drop later this year) and include recording software for Windows 95. Testers found the drives fairly easy to use once they were running, but setting up some of them was a true test of patience.

All but one of the drives have external models and are SCSI-based, which resulted in SCSI adapter-card installations and hours of wrestling with Windows 95 and each unit's proprietary drivers. A few of the drives required several hit-and-miss installations and countless restarts. While it's worth it once a CD-R drive is up and running, you'll need to gather some stamina for setting up before you begin.

For recording tasks, usability boiled down to the software. The drives came with variations of Corel's CD Creator or Incat's Easy-CD Pro. Our usability testers liked CD Creator because it ran more drive diagnostics, delivered slightly better control, and included better features for simple recording of audio CDs and Photo CDs. Each software's drive diagnostics proved to be essential. (They should be run each time you burn a CD-ROM, since a CD-R's recording laser can often get off track and stop the process.) Although our testers found the setup and use of each drive similar, there were some differences.

Best Buy: The CD-R 1002's simple setup and low price make it the top pick.

CD-R 1002 / Smart and Friendly / (800) 959-7001 / $899 external, $799 internal, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 791*

Data Dynamo Smart and Friendly's CD-R 1002 had the easiest setup of all the drives—most of our testers got it to work on the first try. That, plus its low price, made it the top choice. Its only drawback is that it comes with Incat's Easy-CD Pro instead of Corel's CD Creator, which our testers preferred.

Even so, the CD-R 1002 performed well, and most CD burns were successful. The drive supports every CD-ROM format, including Enhanced CD and Multi Session. Although the CD-R 1002 doesn't have the greatest software, or extras like clip art and video clips, it was the best drive we found.

Basic Backups Hewlett-Packard's SureStore CD-Writer 4020i is an internal drive only. (The other drives have external and internal versions.) The SureStore is priced a bit above the $1,000 mark, and offers some of the best software extras we've found. While its recording software, Incat's Easy-CD (some of the other drives come with Easy-CD Pro), wasn't the best, our testers found that it was good for simple data backup.

Setting up the SureStore was a little difficult, mainly because it's an internal unit and we had to navigate around the PC's chassis and various wires. The SureStore comes with some original software like Incat's Magic Lantern for viewing Photo CDs and IMR's Alchemy Personal, an indexing and database package to help you keep track of all your CD-ROMs and recorded information. The SureStore is a good buy for simple data backup, with speed that runs circles around any tape-backup solution.

Inside Track: The SureStore includes utilities for worry-free data backup.

SureStore CD-Writer 4020i / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 826-4111 / $1,099 internal, est. street price

Slick Setup Pinnacle Micro's RCD 5040 has one of the best software bundles we found, and one of the most painless installations. However, the RCD 5040's

Slow Burn: The RCD 5040 has outstanding software but poky performance.

Pinnacle Micro RCD 5040 / Pinnacle Micro / (800) 553-7070 / $1,150 external, $850 internal, est. street prices / *Reader Service No. 792*

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Soho Usability Test

Extras Needed: The Spressa is quick, but you'll need to buy a SCSI card.

Spressa / Sony / (800) 352-7669 / $1,495 external, $1,195 internal, list prices / *Reader Service No. 793*

performance lagged behind the other drives. Because of conflicts between the SCSI card and the drive, CD Creator wrote only at single speed after it ran through its CD-R drive diagnostics. This means a lot of thumb-drumming for backing up big files or copying full-length audio CDs.

Even so, the RCD comes with dozens of tools, including Corel's CD Creator and Pinnacle's own RCD Archive, a simple backup utility. The drive also comes with various clip art, images, and video clips to dabble with—a simple and fun add-on that most of the other packages didn't have.

Money Burn The one outstanding thing about Sony's Spressa is that it includes ten blank CD-ROMs (the other drives came with only one or two discs). The downside is that the extra discs come at a price: At $1,495 the external drive lacks a SCSI adapter and cable—an extra $100 expense.

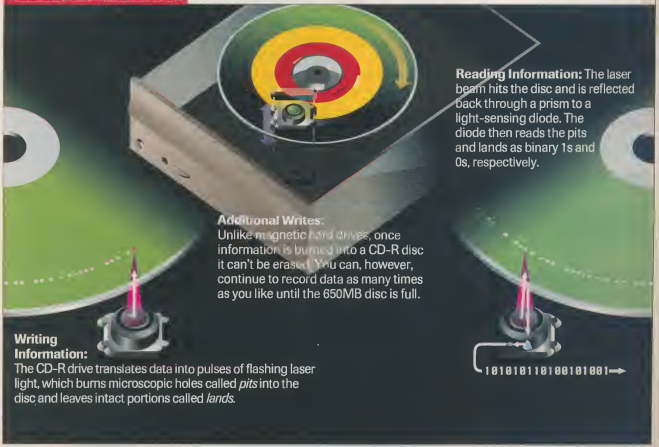
The Spressa was easy to set up because it didn't require a specific adapter. Most usability testers had the drive up and burning after only a few failed attempts. Like the RCD 5040, the Spressa comes with CD Creator, which worked well with the drive. The extra discs are convenient, although you can buy blank ones for around $10 each. Even so, the Spressa's relatively easy setup and excellent software make the drive well worth considering.

Slow Reader MicroNet's Master CD Plus doesn't include a SCSI adapter or cable. Our usability testers found the Master CD Plus was inconsistent with various adapter cards, and couldn't install the drive even after several attempts.

Capricious Connections: The Master CD Plus doesn't include a SCSI card and is fickle about the one you use.

Master CD Plus / MicroNet / (800) 800-3475 / $1,195 external, $979 internal, list prices / *Reader Service No. 794*

HOW IT WORKS CD-RECORDABLE DRIVES



SohoUsability Test

CD-Recordable Drives

	Smart and Friendly CD-R 1002	Hewlett-Packard SureStore	Pinnacle Micro RCD 5040	Sony Spressa	MicroNet Master CD Plus
Recording Software	Incat Easy- CD Pro	Incat Easy-CD	Corel CD Creator	Corel CD Creator	Incat Easy-CD Pro
Blank CD-ROMs Included	1	2	2	10	1
SCSI Adapter and Cable	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

The Master CD Plus comes with Incat's Easy-CD Pro, and performed well after we got the drive working. But for simple CD-ROM reading, you can do better. Despite the drive's $1,195 price (the second most expensive unit we tested), it reads at only double speed in comparison with quad speed in the other drives. Look for a new version with a faster read speed to be released from MicroNet. But for now, you can find a better deal.

Take a Spin For serious recording, you'll need some major hard disk space since CD-R recording software usually requires a lot of room for a data cache. For the most price-conscious, an internal drive is the way to go, and every drive we mentioned has an internal model.

Keep in mind that if you already have an internal CD-ROM drive, you'll have to remove it to make room for the CD-R drive.

So, are you ready to start rolling your own CD-ROMs? For CD creation, Smart and Friendly's CD-R 1002 and Sony's Spressa handle any CD format. Our testers picked the CD-R 1002 as the best buy overall. They found it has the easiest setup, the lowest price, and the best performance. The Spressa, however, has better software. For basic backups and more software, Hewlett-Packard's SureStore CD-Writer 4020i is a good choice. Its software is simple and does the job, plus it comes with plenty of interactive tutorials and online help. JACK LYON

DECISION MAKER — CHOOSE THE BEST CD-R DRIVE FOR YOU

Labnotes

Our Usability Labs burned countless CD-ROMs, many of which were ruined as we tweaked adapter cards, drivers, and recording software. Our testers installed each CD-R drive on identical systems running Windows 95. When an adapter card and driver software weren't included, we used Adaptec's 16-bit SCSI-2 host adapter and Adaptec's EZ-SCSI Lite.

Our testers performed various tasks after they installed the drives. Tests included making a copy of another CD, creating a standard audio CD, backing up all the data from a hard drive, and burning mixed-media CD-ROMs that had both data and audio. They also tested how easily each drive wrote data on a recordable disc that already had some data recorded on it.

Our testers also examined the software's ability to scan for drives and to clearly note what formats were being recorded, as well as how the software tracked various recording sessions and how fast it could work with various drives to write data.

Finally, to evaluate reading, our testers looked at each CD-R drive as a straight-flying CD-ROM drive, by running various CD-ROM games, applications, and video clips.

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Please answer questions below:

1. **Where do you use your computer?** (Check one only):
   1 ☐ Home 2 ☐ Business 3 ☐ Both
2. **What kinds of computers do you use?** (Check all that apply):
   1 ☐ IBM/Compatible Laptop 2 ☐ IBM/Compatible Desktop 3 ☐ MAC
3. **Do you plan to buy any of the hardware or software mentioned below in the next three months?** (Check all that apply):

HARDWARE	SOFTWARE
1 ☐ PC	12 ☐ Accounting
2 ☐ MAC	13 ☐ Spreadsheet
3 ☐ Laptop	14 ☐ Personal Finance
4 ☐ Printer	15 ☐ Desktop Publishing
5 ☐ Monitor	16 ☐ Word Processor
6 ☐ Disk/Tape Back-up	17 ☐ Database Manager
7 ☐ Add-in Board	18 ☐ Graphics
8 ☐ Modem	19 ☐ Utility
9 ☐ Input Device	20 ☐ Communications
10 ☐ Local Area Network	21 ☐ Windows 95
11 ☐ UPS	

22 ☐ Programming Language/ Compiler
23 ☐ Integrated/Multifunction
24 ☐ CAD
25 ☐ CD-ROM
26 ☐ On-Line Services

4. **From which of the following sources do you purchase personal computer products?** (Check all that apply):
   1 ☐ Specialty Computer Retail Stores 3 ☐ Direct from Manufacturers
   2 ☐ Mail Order Firms 4 ☐ Other

6. ☐ Please send me a one-year (12-issue) subscription to PC Computing for $16.97 (U.S. price); all other countries add $16.00 for additional postage.

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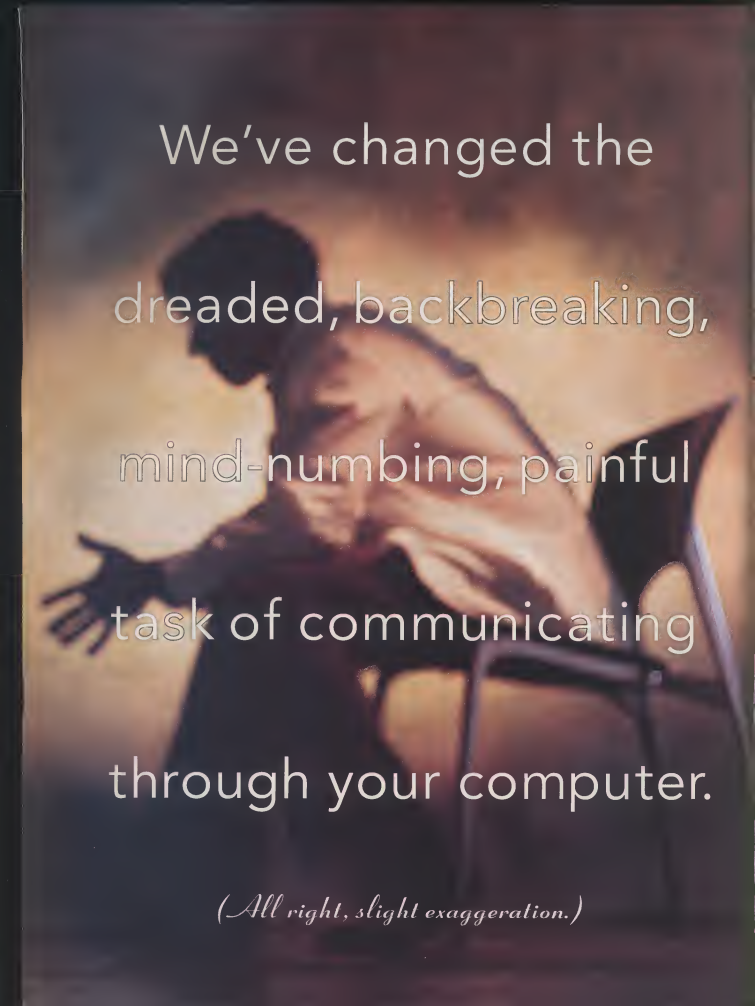
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PC WORLD MAGAZINE, January 96

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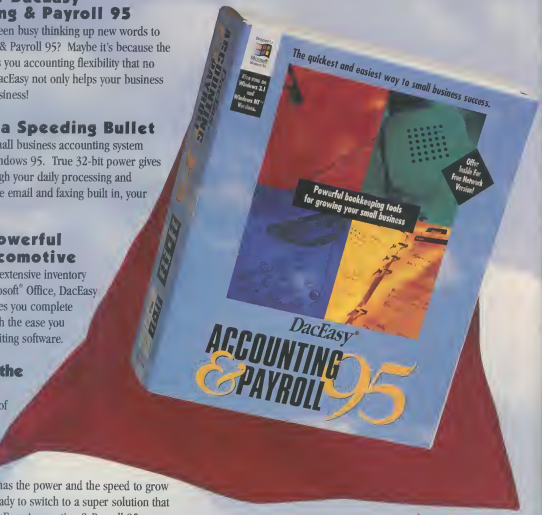

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I-Way Franchise

Former Novell executives have formed USWeb, a franchise Web service that links networks and provides marketing, design, and Internet services.

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First Floor Software's Smart Bookmarks 2.0 helps you monitor your favorite Web sites for new and updated information.

Smart Bookmarks 2.0 / First Floor Software / $24 est. street price / (415) 968-1101 / *Reader Service No. 801*

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WebAnchor / Iconovex / $50 est. street price / (800) 943-0292 / *Reader Service No. 802*

CREATIVE MARKETING

World Wide Web Ads

For businesses, the World Wide Web explosion provides a tremendous new advertising opportunity—the Web has become the greatest marketing medium since television. But unlike TV, where there's usually a clear line between advertising and programming, the Web's format easily lets ads masquerade as content (witness MCI's fictitious Gramercy Press site at www.mci.com/gramercy).

Dozens of important new tools and technologies are cropping up to help companies place and manage Web ads. Other tools help businesses perform critical marketing and campaign analyses. Several companies, including NetGravity and Focalink Communications, have developed servers dedicated exclusively to advertising.

NetGravity's AdServer 1.0 is a new advertising-management system for the Web that lets you schedule and place Web commercials. Sold on a traffic-based, tiered license structure, AdServer supports most Unix and Windows NT Web platforms, including Microsoft's Internet Information Server.

Focalink Communications' SmartBanner is a server hub from which marketers and advertisers can trace demographics, impressions, and ad rates across multiple sites. SmartBanner, available to prospective customers for a free three-month trial, offers access to dynamic ads based on the surfer's domain, and automatically places and tracks an infinite number of ad spots.

In addition, a slew of site-auditing tools provide demographic profiles, as well as information about browsers' domains and frequencies.

Direct Results: A new crop of ad-management tools can help your Web advertisement reach the right customers.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER ALAN GOULD

ONE-MINUTE GUIDE Online Advertising Tools

Before you pack your Web site with ad pitches, be sure to scan the latest Web-based advertising tools and technologies. While dozens of products are vying for your attention, here's a shortlist to bookmark:

ADLAB Competitive Media Reporting's AdLab tracks Internet advertising activity. It also provides tools for establishing online advertising methods that will help you meet your business goals. (www.usadata.com/demo/overview.htm)

ADSERVER 1.0 Much like Focalink's SmartBanner, NetGravity's AdServer 1.0 combines powerful database technology with reporting and scheduling tools. It also includes management features. (www.netgravity.com)

I/PRO RESEARCH A suite of Web-measurement and -auditing tools, Internet Profile's I/Pro Research provides comprehensive site-performance data, including traffic reports. (www.ipro.com)

NETCOUNT Digital Planet's NetCount is an advertising tool that monitors user traffic within and between Web sites, and delivers standardized reports on site traffic. (www.netcount.com)

SMARTBANNER Businesses and individuals can develop and manage ad campaigns and track browsing trends with SmartBanner, a Web-advertising server from Focalink Communications. (www.focalink.com)

I-Way Patrol

Insites

DRAWINGS OF THE WEEK Don't miss this collection of extraordinary illustrations from artist Bud Peen.
www.slip.net/~budpeen

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www.jazzcentralstation.com

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www.nbc.com/entertainment/shows/er

MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY You'll find classic and modern rock 'n' roll photography at Jim Marshall's Gods of Music site.
www.marshallphoto.com

InSites contributed by Kyla K. Carlson. *I-Way Patrol is written and edited by* Rich Schwerin. *I-Way report to share? Send e-mail to Rich_Schwerin@zd.com.*

Free Stuff!

Rich Schwerin: Bookmark www.pccomputing.com

Windows NT Registry ☆☆☆☆☆
Edit your Windows NT Registry quickly and easily with Registry Search.
File: REGSRCH.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 169K/2 minutes

Star Trek Sounds ☆☆☆☆☆
Trekkies: Enhance your desktop with audio clips from *Star Trek*.
File: WARP.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 35K/30 seconds

Wallpaper Management ☆☆☆☆☆
Keep track of your desktop wallpaper with SmartPaper.
File: SMTPPR.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 39K/30 seconds

Maze Game ☆☆☆☆
Play Marbles, an obstacle-strewn maze game of logic and skill.
File: MARBLE.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 57K/45 seconds

CD Audio Utility ☆☆☆☆
Listen to audio-CD tracks in the order you choose.
File: CDSAT.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 528K/6 minutes

Windows 95 Start-up Wallpaper ☆☆☆☆
Tired of Microsoft's boot-up blue sky and clouds? Grab New Beginnings, a suite of cool bitmaps.
File: NEWBEG.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 134K/2 minutes

Atari's Super Pong 95 ☆☆☆
If you grew up on Atari's Pong, you'll love Atari's Super Pong 95.
File: PONG.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 665K/7 minutes

File-Management Utility ☆☆☆
Tired of waiting for Nashville? Try Turbo Browser—it replaces Windows 95's Explorer.
File: TURB.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 850K/6 minutes

Cursor Fun ☆☆
Don't settle for typical, boring cursors. Try these sports-related icons.
File: CURSOR.ZIP **Size/Time*:** 60K/1 minute

Package Deals: One Download, Many Files

ICON INSANITY ☆☆☆☆☆
Is your desktop bland? Boring? Too basic? Downright dull? Put some thrill into your daily grind with this unique collection of more than 3,000 Windows icons.
File: ICON.ZIP
Size/Time*: 575K/6 minutes

STAY HEALTHY ☆☆☆☆☆
Don't wait for a computer virus to annihilate your data. Get first-class protection with a handy collection of antivirus utilities from the folks at Symantec.
File: ANTIVIR.ZIP
Size/Time*: 562K/6 minutes

CUSTOMIZE WIN95 ☆☆☆☆☆
Break up your routine! Replace your Windows 95 start-up logo, space out with a trippy screen saver, and add animated cursors and other goodies to your desktop domain.
File: WIN95DSK.ZIP
Size/Time*: 127K/5 minutes

Ratings: ☆☆☆☆☆ *Out-of-the-park grand slam.* ☆☆☆☆ *Single-shot homer to left.* ☆☆☆ *Two-out stand-up double.* ☆☆ *Bases-loaded balk.* ☆ *Ejected from the ballpark.*

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hotList bookmarks of the rich and famous

Martha's calendar

Welcome home! This month our spies learned how to scrub grout in heels, knit socks in their sleep, and whip together snail pâté for impromptu parties—just to get cozy with the domestic dominatrix herself, Martha Stewart. See what impossible ménage masterpieces the homestead hellion has concocted, here and online at www.pccomputing.com. Don't forget your garden gloves!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	MARTHADAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 JULY **Glue Doilies onto Everything I Own** NeedleNet www.needlenet.com/	2 **Shape Herb Garden into Hieroglyphic Alphabet** Hieroglyphic Translator www-ceg.ceg.uiuc.edu/~haggag/hiero.html	3 **Single-Handedly Save The Rain Forest** Rain Forest Action Network www.ran.org/ran/	4 **Organize My Caviar Collection Alphabetically By Fish Species** Storing Caviar www3.epicurious.com/HyperNews/get/gtips/49.html	5 **Color-Coordinate All the Neighborhood Houses** House Painting FAQ www.csf.org/~macrakis/paint.html	6 **Stop World Hunger** HungerWeb www.brown.edu/Departments/World_Hunger_Program/
7 **Make a Life-size Roman Coliseum in Gingerbread** Architecture Of Rome www.li.suu.edu/library/courses/hum101/romanart.htm	8 **Can't Stop Braiding The Front Lawn?** Martha Stewart Disease gold.interlog.com/eye/News/Necro/1995/nec0511.htm	9 **First, Grow Wheat For the Flour . . .** Martha Stewart's Christmas Pudding mail.bcpl.lib.md.us/~tross/by/pudding.html	10 **Appetite Ammunition** Epicurious Magazine www.epicurious.com/epicurious/home.html	11 **Motherly Love** Martha Dearest showbiz.starwave.com/showbiz/memorybank/starbios/marthastewart/	12 **Martha's Worst Nightmare** Feminists for Animal Rights www.envirolink.org/arrs/far/	13 **Happy Broken Homemaker** Divorce www-leland.stanford.edu/~rmahony/Divorce.html
14 **Food Poisoning** Martha Stewart: The Best Revenge www.mc.edu/~mcclure/martha.html	15 **Domestic Violence** The Martha Militia 192.211.16.13/curricular/virtual_college/morgainl/martha.html	16 **Wife Wars** Who Is the Ultimate Housewife? www.fc.net/~zarathus/andrew/andrew_of_america_versus_martha_stewart.txt	17 **Martha, Get Your Gun** Glue Gun Reviews www.procrafter.com/procraft/glugun.htm	18 **Only 160 Days Until Christmas!** Martha Stewart: Home for the Holidays www.cbs.com/martha/	19 **Finding Time to Make Pierogi from Scratch** Impossibilities in The Modern Age fame.gmu.edu/~dduane/modimpos.html	20 **Home Sweet Home Page** The Web Guide To Martha Stewart tear.cybercash.com/kerry/martha/index.html
21 **Wimps** Fifteen-Minute Meals homearts.com/rb/food/0915mnf2.htm	22 **Hors d'Deuvres À la Burger King** Lair of the Anti-Martha www.cris.com/~akiyama/martha.html	23 **Other Franchises Built on a Name** Andy Warhol www.columbia.edu/~pl90/warhol.html	24 **Gross** Grits www.tnnet.com/grits/grits.htm	25 **It's a Good Thing** Mayonnaise www.lysator.liu.se/(nobg)/etexts/recept/si/mayonnaise-1.html	26 **Martha's Magic** Time Travel wolf.cs.yorku.ca/www/People/peter/MH/Time%20travel.html	27 **Keep Gardening at Night!** The Virtual Garden pathfinder.com/@@j3I**GPwTwIAQPCw/vg/info/new-vg.html
28 **Oven Scrubbing In Your Evening Gown** Beauty Queens www.wheatonma.edu/Communications/E-Quarterly/Spring95/beauty.html	29 **David Letterman Disses** Top Ten Martha Stewart Worst Tips For Living detnews.com/menu/stories/17913.htm	30 **Put Up Your Pumps!** The Feminist Majority www.feminist.org/home.html	31 **Don't You Wish The Whole World Could Have a Knit Cozy?** Obsessions www.io.org/~dnewton/obsessions.html		

All Martha's projects meticulously completed by Jack Lyon

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